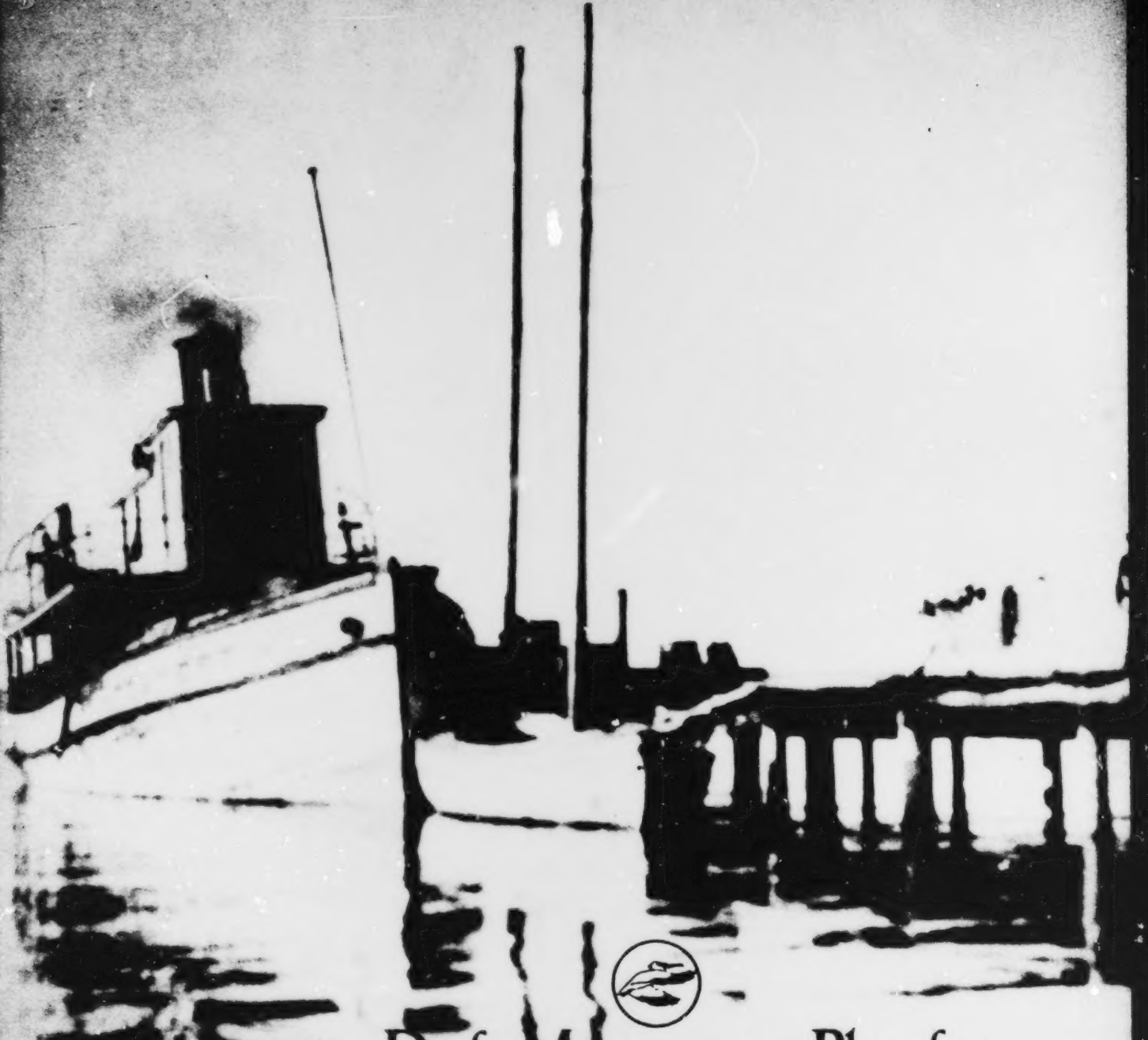

Draft Management Plan for Hecla Provincial Park and Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park

Manitoba
Natural Resources
Parks
Celebrating 25 Years 1963 — 88

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

HECLA PROVINCIAL PARK

AND

GRINDSTONE PROVINCIAL RECREATION PARK

Manitoba Parks Branch
Department of Natural Resources

November 1985

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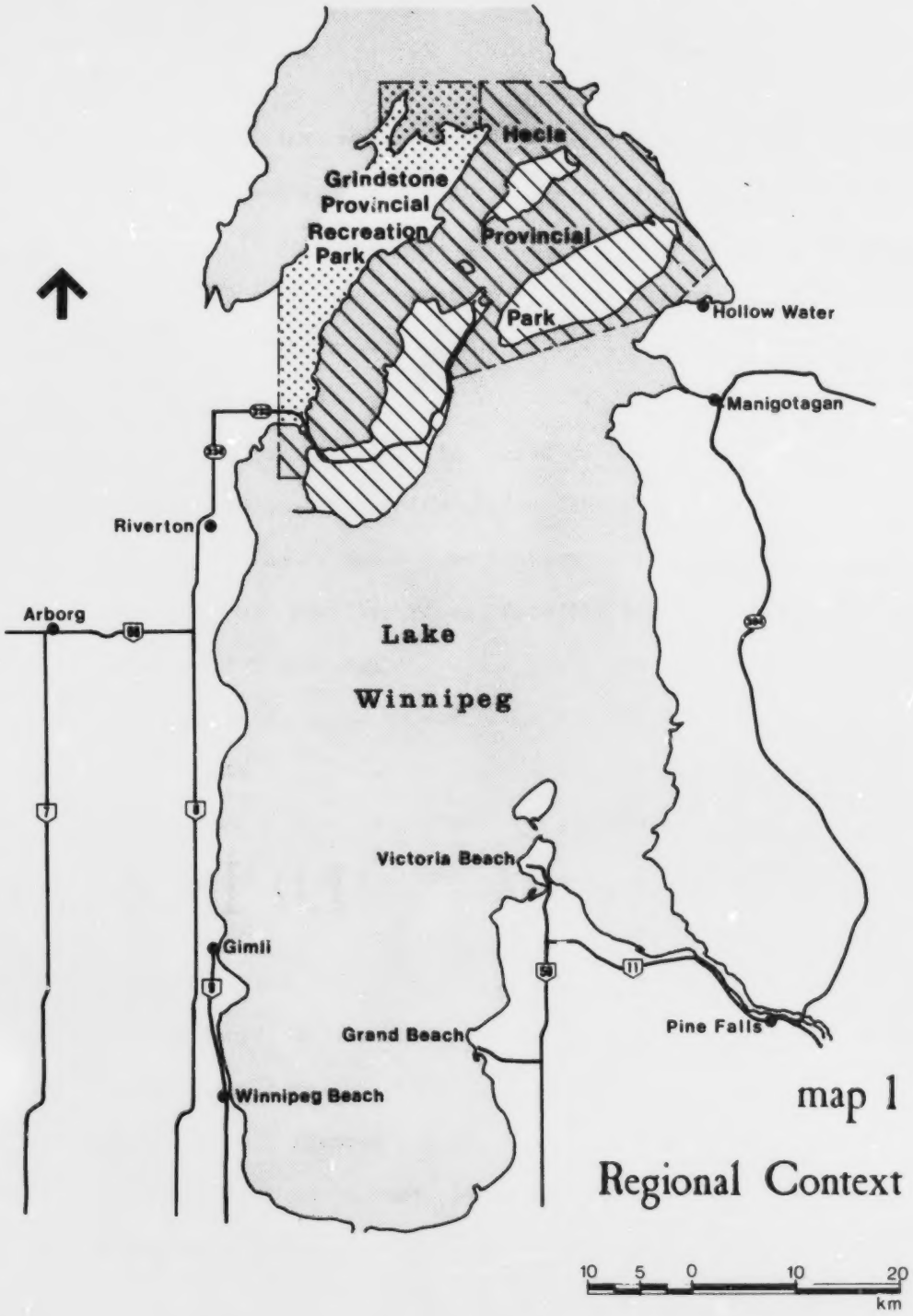
1.0 Introduction



map 1

Regional Context

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management plans for provincial parks reflect each park's provincial role as well as its distinctive character, use, and capability. Legislation governing the establishment, development and management of provincial parks is set out in The Provincial Park Lands Act, which states:

> "Provincial park lands are dedicated to the people of Manitoba and visitors of Manitoba, and may be used by them for healthful enjoyment, and for the cultural, educational and social benefits that may be derived therefrom."
>
> The Act further states that:
>
> "Provincial park lands shall be developed and maintained
>
> a) for the conservation and management of flora and fauna therein;
> b) for the preservation of specified areas and objects therein that are of geological, cultural, ecological or other scientific interest, and;
> c) to facilitate the use and enjoyment of outdoor recreation therein."

Set in the heart of Lake Winnipeg, Hecla Provincial Park and Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park encompass some of the finest recreational lands in the province. Rugged limestone cliffs, pelican and cormorant nesting colonies, vast marshes and forests, a thriving moose population, a remnant of Icelandic settlement, and some of the finest boating waters on Lake Winnipeg may be found here. Opportunities exist for wide ranges of recreational activities and educational experiences, within an outstanding example of the Manitoba Lowlands landscape.

The purpose of the management plan is to set the overall direction for land use and development in Hecla and Grindstone Parks for a ten year period. The plan is developed in a public forum, resolving potential conflicts between the preservation of natural areas and the commercial use of some natural resources, and between various forms of recreation.

It also identifies opportunities for appropriate development in both parks by the private and public sectors, and complementary development in communities adjacent to the parks. The management plan establishes a zoning scheme. The purpose of various land use zones and permitted activities within each are defined.

The kinds of issues addressed in the plan are as diverse as the natural and cultural resources of the parks themselves. Hecla contains one of the best remaining examples of Icelandic settlement along the western shores of Lake Winnipeg, once part of the self-governing colony of New Iceland. The manner in which the Hecla Village is developed and maintained must be determined in order to preserve part of this cultural landscape and interpret it for park visitors.

The further development of recreational facilities is also discussed in the plan. Areas that exhibit good potential for recreational development, however, may also contain important wildlife habitat, or historically settled areas, that once altered are lost forever. In certain areas though, development may take place without compromising these park features. In such cases, development that complements existing facilities and enhances enjoyment of the park may be undertaken. There has been a heightened interest, and indeed a growing necessity, for public and private sectors to co-operate in the provision of outdoor recreation and visitor services in parks. Several opportunities exist within Hecla and Grindstone for provision of facilities and services by the private sector and this involvement will be actively pursued.

Potential also exists for commercial resource use in Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park and to a lesser extent, in Hecla Provincial Park. Commercial fishing, peat extraction, forestry, agriculture and silica sand operations are the kinds of activities that exist or are contemplated within the parks. These activities will be accommodated where they are consistent with the parks' objectives and will not impair recreational or educational experiences. They will also be permitted where they will enhance educational and recreational experiences. One example is commercial fishing demonstrations in Hecla Village.

The management plan, therefore, sets long term land-use directions within Hecla and Grindstone Parks. Through a zoning scheme, it identifies the kinds of activities that are appropriate within defined areas of each park and encourages the development of desirable services and facilities. Emphasis is also placed upon complementary development in adjacent communities to provide both direct and indirect economic benefits.

Photo 1. Yellow-headed Blackbird in Hecla Marsh

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

The management plan for Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks commenced with publication of Hecla-Towards a Management Plan for Hecla Provincial Park and Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park in May, 1984. This background report introduced a six-step planning process (Figure 1) and presented a variety of information about the resources and present use of the park areas. In addition, proposed planning objectives were outlined and "topics for discussion" identified. A questionnaire was included in the background document.

Public meetings and drop-in sessions (Step 2) were held in Gimli, Riverton, Hecla Island, Manigotagan and Winnipeg in July 1984 to review the background report and to encourage discussion. Approximately 500 persons were contacted and 13 different groups or organizations were represented at the meetings.

Public responses were received in several ways: through completed questionnaires from the background document, through discussions at drop-in sessions and meetings, and through oral and written submissions. This variety of information was compiled and reviewed by the Parks Branch. The results were published and distributed to participants (Step 3) in March, 1985 in the report entitled Progress Report and Final Objectives-Management Plan for Hecla Provincial Park and Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park. The final statement of objectives has guided the preparation of this Draft Management Plan (Step 4).

After public review and comment on this draft (Step 5), a final management plan will be prepared. That plan, together with a summary report on public input, will be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources for consideration and approval (Step 6).

A general update of the approved management plan will be undertaken approximately every ten years. Changing circumstances may require that the management plan be further reviewed periodically since many factors affect environmental conservation and the use of natural resources.

STEP 1

Publish Introductory Report with Specific Objectives for Hecla - Grindstone

STEP 2

Informational Meetings and Public Input

STEP 3

Publish Responses and Finalize Objectives

STEP 4

Prepare and Publish Draft Management Plan

STEP 5

Information Meetings and Public Input

STEP 6

Finalize Plan and Convey to the Minister

Figure 1

Planning Process

1.3 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND PRECEPTS

Park classification is a means of distinguishing among parks within the provincial park system. Classifications are used to underscore basic differences in the roles and purposes of parks. The classification sets a general direction for management and development, while park precepts are statements that give more specific direction to park management and development.

Hecla Provincial Park, currently classified as a Provincial Natural Park, will be reclassified as a Provincial Heritage Park. Heritage Parks represent landscapes or sites that are one-of-a-kind. They preserve and interpret key elements of Manitoba's natural and cultural history, providing a range of outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences that emphasize appreciation of heritage values. Hecla's reclassification to a Provincial Heritage Park is based upon its unique natural and cultural resources and its potential to offer outstanding recreational experiences and opportunities.

Grindstone Provincial Park is classified as a Provincial Recreation Park and will continue to perform this role. Recreation Parks are designed to accommodate large numbers of people and a wide range of outdoor recreational use and facilities.

The following park precepts have been developed to further define the roles of Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks.

Hecla Provincial Park will:

represent and conserve the flora, fauna and geology of the Manitoba Lowlands and associated "inland sea" image;

reflect and preserve Icelandic cultural history;

reflect and preserve Native cultural history;

provide a range of accommodation from high-quality resort to primitive campsites;

enhance the water and marine-based recreational opportunities of this part of Lake Winnipeg; and

provide a refuge for moose and colonial nesting birds.

Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park will:

be a major cottaging area on Lake Winnipeg; and

provide for a range of private and public recreational facilities.

Photo 2. Sailing-boat at Gull Harbour

Photo 3. Red Fox Pup

2.0 Hecla-Grindstone Environment

Photo 4. South Shore of Black Island

2.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The landscape of the Hecla-Grindstone area is a rich natural heritage. Here the Canadian Shield meets the Great Interior Plains of North America in the midst of one of the largest lakes in the world. Lake Winnipeg is one of several great freshwater lakes that lie at the edge of the Canadian Shield. A remnant of the glacial Lake Agassiz, Lake Winnipeg has few natural harbours in the south basin and is characterized by wide expanses of open water. Since 1975 water levels in Lake Winnipeg have been controlled as a part of Manitoba Hydro's development of electrical generating stations along the Nelson River.

The hard granite rocks of the shield, most often associated with Whiteshell Provincial Park, make up the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg, extending to the eastern corner of Black Island. This transition from shield to layered sedimentary rocks is quite evident on Black Island. The characteristic limestone bedrock underlain with sandstone is especially visible at the northern end of Hecla Island and the Grindstone peninsula. Many of the fine beaches found in the area are composed of silica sands, eroded from the sandstone bedrock and deposited by lake currents.

Overlying the bedrock, surface materials of varying textures and depths have been deposited as a result of glaciation. Grindstone Point and Hecla Island are primarily covered by fine textured clays, deposited when the area lay beneath the waters of Lake Agassiz. On poorly drained soils, extensive marshes, bogs, fens, and wet meadows have developed. Where the ground is higher and the soils better drained, a vigorous growth of mixed forest is found. White spruce, balsam fir and tamarack are common, as are white birch, aspen, ash and poplar.

Unlike Hecla and Grindstone, the surface deposits on Black and Deer Islands are predominantly coarse-textured glacial till. Deer Island has shallow soils, with exposed bedrock in many places, while Black Island has deep deposits. These are covered by coniferous forest, primarily white and black spruce, and jack pine.

In addition to the numerous species of plants associated with the forest communities in this area, there are also several rare plant species. The grass pink and ragged-fringed orchids, for example, require special protection as the only known specimens in Manitoba are found in this area. The stand of red pine on Black Island is the most northerly and westerly occurrence of red pine found in North America.

Hecla Island, being a transition between the aspen parklands and boreal forest, provides a mixture of habitats suitable for a diversity of bird species. The small islands and reefs are habitat for colonial nesting birds such as pelicans, cormorants, gulls and terns. The marshes are important nesting and breeding areas for waterfowl and are used extensively for staging during migration. Bald eagles and herons nest in trees along the shoreline.

The habitat is suitable not only for a rich variety of birds, but for many other types of wildlife as well. Hecla Island is well known for its moose population, although moose are found throughout the planning area. Moose thrive in Hecla's favourable combination of wetlands and mixed forest.

Lake Winnipeg supports several important sport fish species such as walleye, sauger and northern pike. Walleye, along with whitefish and tullibee, are also major commercial fish species.

Of the nine species of amphibians and reptiles found on Hecla Island, five are on the extremes of their range. These include the western painted turtle, the Canadian toad, the American toad, the spring creeper, and the endangered grey tree frog.

2.2 CULTURAL SETTINGS

Hecla Provincial Park has a fascinating history of human occupation. The Saulteaux inhabitated the region long before the arrival of the first European explorers, using Black Island in particular. This island was known to have special religious significance to all of the Saulteaux people living in the vicinity of Lake Winnipeg. Hecla Island, on the other hand, became an important settlement for Icelandic immigrants. Many buildings and the original settlement pattern are still evident today.

Although little visible evidence of native occupation exists on Black Island today, there are several sites at the eastern end of the island where traditional ceremonies took place. The medicine dance, or Midewiwin, has been an important ritual among native people for centuries. The last known site in Manitoba where these ceremonies took place was near Drumming Point on Black Island. The Midewiwin was held annually during the early summer to ordain new medicine men and perform healing rituals. Chief George Barker describes the scene in his book, Forty Years a Chief.

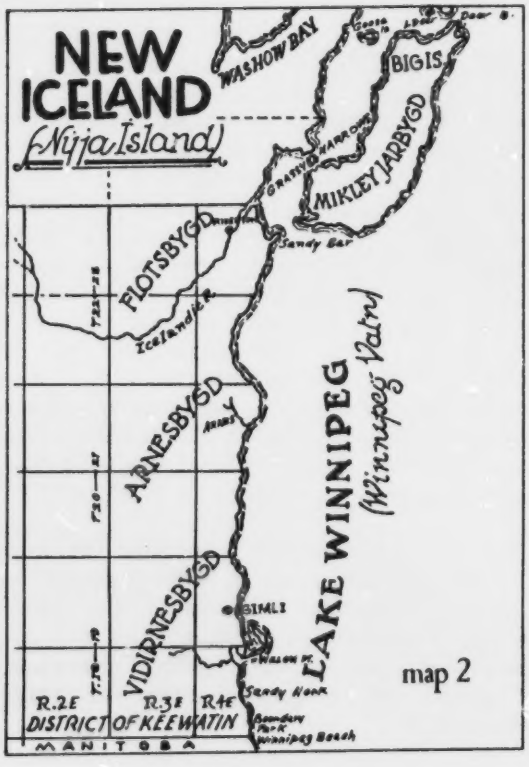
> "The event lasted eight days, from sunrise to sunset. There was much preparation. A special shelter was erected, facing east and covered with birch bark. It was about 48 feet long and 12 feet wide. Another enclosure was built close by, of the same length and six feet high, but without a roof. It was in here that the actual ceremonies were conducted."

There are also several burial sites, food cache areas, and other features on Black Island that serve as witness to this early occupation. Today, the native people of the region continue to gather annually on Black Island and use it for berry-picking and hunting.

Icelandic settlers first arrived on Hecla Island in 1876, as it was part of a reserve set aside by the Canadian Government for the exclusive settlement of Icelandic people (see Map 2). The Twelve Year Republic, as it was known, governed itself until New Iceland was formally absorbed into the Province of Manitoba.

The first settlers took up lands at Mill Bay, the present site of Hecla Village, as there was a sawmill operating there at the time. Some attempted to settle on the marshy western side of the island where they thought the land would be easier to clear, but these homesteads were soon destroyed by frequent flooding. Eventually, most of the eastern side of the island was settled in long narrow lots one quarter mile wide by one mile deep. This gave each settler access to the lake, as well as land for a garden, pasture, or cultivated fields. Commercial fishing was the main economic activity in the settlement, although the sawmill and forestry operations also provided employment.

Today, many homes, icehouses and other buildings remain intact on their original sites. Although somewhat modified by further subdivision, the original linear settlement pattern exists along the eastern shore of the island. This cultural landscape has all but disappeared from the rest of what was once New Iceland, leaving Hecla Provincial Park with one of the best remaining examples of this unique part of Manitoba's history.



2.3 RECREATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT

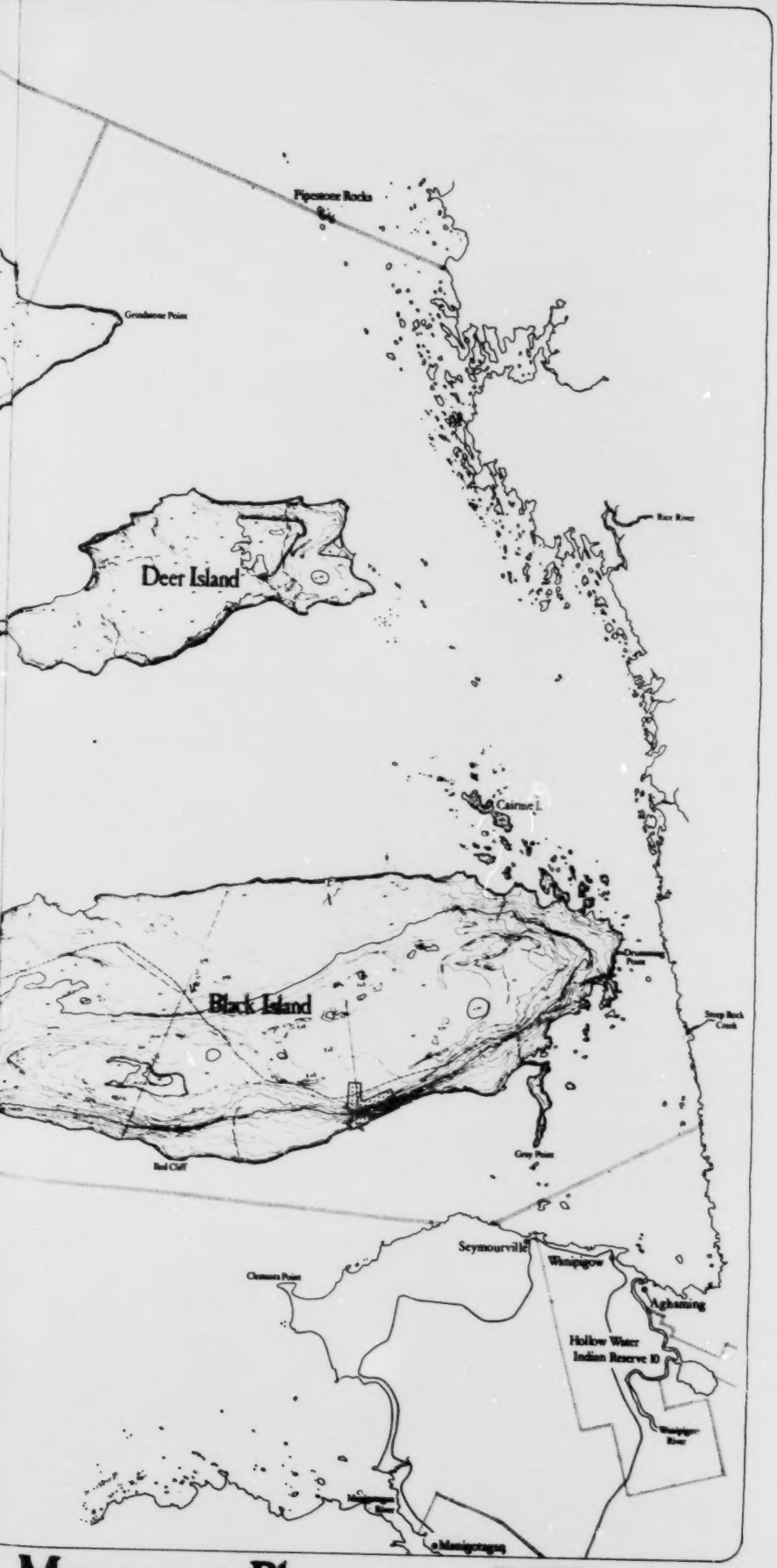
The Hecla and Grindstone areas were set aside as provincial parks in 1969. Hecla Provincial Park, which includes Black, Deer, Punk, Little Punk, Goose and a host of smaller islands, was established primarily because of its unique cultural history and outstanding natural features. Recreational facilities were to be concentrated in the Gull Harbour area in order to leave the rest of the park in as natural a state as possible. Grindstone Provincial Park was established essentially to accommodate cottaging and associated recreational activities.

Under the F.R.E.D. (Fund for Rural Economic Development) Program, a causeway was constructed to link Hecla Island to the mainland. Existing recreational facilities (Map 3) include a 213 unit campground at Gull Harbour, as well as an 18-hole golf course. In addition to the campground, several family vacation cabins were built to offer basic accommodation for those who did not have camping equipment. A major resort hotel complex was also constructed, and recently enlarged from 53 to 92 rooms.

Hecla is consistently among the ten most heavily visited provincial parks in Manitoba. The Gull Harbour campground frequently exceeds its capacity on weekends each summer and is one of the five most often used campgrounds in the province. While the total number of users is greatest between June and September, increasing numbers of visitors are using the park in winter. Several cross-country ski trails have been established to accommodate this use, along with other winter use facilities.

To date, Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park has been developed exclusively for cottages. An access road and 350 cottage sites have been developed, along with a boat launch and harbour at Little Grindstone Point. Considerable room remains within the park for the expansion of recreational facilities.

Existing Facilities and Land Use
peat lease
silica lease
agricultural interests: haying and grazing
private land
cottage subdivision
map 3
Washow Bay
Janora Island
Wells Harbour
Little Grindstone Harbour
dock, boat launch, picnic site
boat launch
Goose Island
Little Punk I.
Punk Island
north point picnic site
self-guiding trail
campground
vacation cabins
Gull Harbour
marina, information, washrooms
service, picnic sites,
telephones, trails
golf course
picnic site
Hay Point
Hecla
telephone, gas, post office, dock,
washrooms self-guiding trail
Grassy
Narrows
Hecla Island
entrance gate
wildlife viewing tower
group camping
Hecla Provincial Park
Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park



Management Plan

2.4 COMMERCIAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION

Limited commercial resource utilization occurs in both Hecla and Grindstone Parks (Map 3). Many of these activities pre-dated the establishment of the parks, and some long-term commitments are still in place. Agriculture and forestry operations occur on Grindstone peninsula, while a silica sand extraction operation is located on the southern shore of Black Island.

The silica sand operation on Black Island is considered important to both the local and provincial economy. The sand is an essential material for the manufacturing of glass, and has other industrial uses. Steel Brothers Canada Limited presently operates under the provisions of a ten-year lease, signed in 1977. The surface mine occupies approximately 300 acres.

Although not presently in operation, a peat extraction facility has been proposed for Grindstone Park. A company presently operating in southeastern Manitoba holds a ten-year lease for peat moss extraction that expires in October of 1992. It has not developed its operation on Grindstone to date, but the company's long-term planning dictates the need for an additional peat source in Manitoba to increase its share of the soil-mix market.

Forestry operations had been carried out for a number of years on Hecla and Black Islands prior to park designation. The sawmill operation on Hecla actually pre-dated Icelandic colonization, but timber harvesting did not become very active until the early 1900's. Millions of board feet of white spruce, birch, and poplar lumber were harvested, providing employment for many of the fishermen and native people in the region. Extensive areas of Black Island were completely cut over and are now covered in new growth.

3.0 Objectives

The following objectives for Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks have guided development of the draft plan. These objectives were published in the progress report with due consideration to:

- compliance with provincial park legislation and policy;
- land use capability;
- protection for the natural and cultural resources;
- existing land use patterns;
- recreational and other established use-trends, and;
- public opinion, comments and suggestions.

Objectives which may not be fully achieved as expressly identified are discussed in Section 6.0 Implementation.

Photo 5. Hecla Village Harbour

Photo 6. Hecla Marsh

To identify significant natural features in Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks and define management requirements to preserve and interpret them for park visitors.

To maintain and conserve Black Island's diverse and unique vegetation.

To maintain sport and subsistence hunting opportunities for moose in Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park and on the outer islands of Hecla Provincial Park.

To manage Hecla Island as a refuge for moose giving priority to opportunities for viewing and interpretation.

To develop a comprehensive wetland management and interpretive program focusing on moose and waterfowl, with viewing stations, trails and brochures.

3.2 CULTURAL FEATURES

To stabilize the remaining Icelandic structures of historical significance on Hecla Island in order to minimize further deterioration.

To maintain the cultural landscape of the Hecla Village and the existing settlement patterns.

To manage Black Island in a manner which recognizes and protects its native cultural values.

To develop interpretive programs for the appreciation and understanding of the cultural history of Hecla Provincial Park.

To illustrate the historical transition of Icelandic settlement through reconstruction of the Hecla fishing village.

To encourage the establishment and participation of co-operating associations in the delivery of programs respecting native cultural history and the Icelandic way of life on Hecla Island.

To provide opportunities for the development of privately-operated commercial services consistent with the fishing village theme through the commercial leasing of land and improvements in the village area.

Photo 7. Restoration of Log House, 1984

3.3 RECREATION

To improve and expand opportunities for year-round outdoor recreation in the area surrounding Gull Harbour Resort Hotel.

To develop a serviced marina at Gull Harbour which can be expanded in pace with demand and which complements existing private marinas on Lake Winnipeg.

To work closely with federal agencies so that appropriate safe boating programs are encouraged.

To expand the rental cabins on Hecla by 25 units and consider their year-round use.

To expand cottaging opportunities on Grindstone consistent with resource capability and public demand up to a level of 1,000 lots (including the existing 350).

To develop a greater variety of trails on Hecla including hiking, self-guided and snowmobile trails.

To encourage the establishment of a commercially-operated public boat-touring service in and around the Hecla area.

To diversify and increase camping opportunities by developing a new 100-unit waterfront campground along the south-east shoreline on Hecla Island.

To evaluate capability and potential demand for commercially-provided camping facilities on Grindstone consistent with this park's primary function as a cottaging area.

To develop boat-in camping facilities on Black and Deer Islands in pace with demand.

To identify development requirements and alternative sites for commercial roofed accommodation on Hecla Island.

To take no action on the Black Island road thereby allowing the area to revert to a near-natural state.

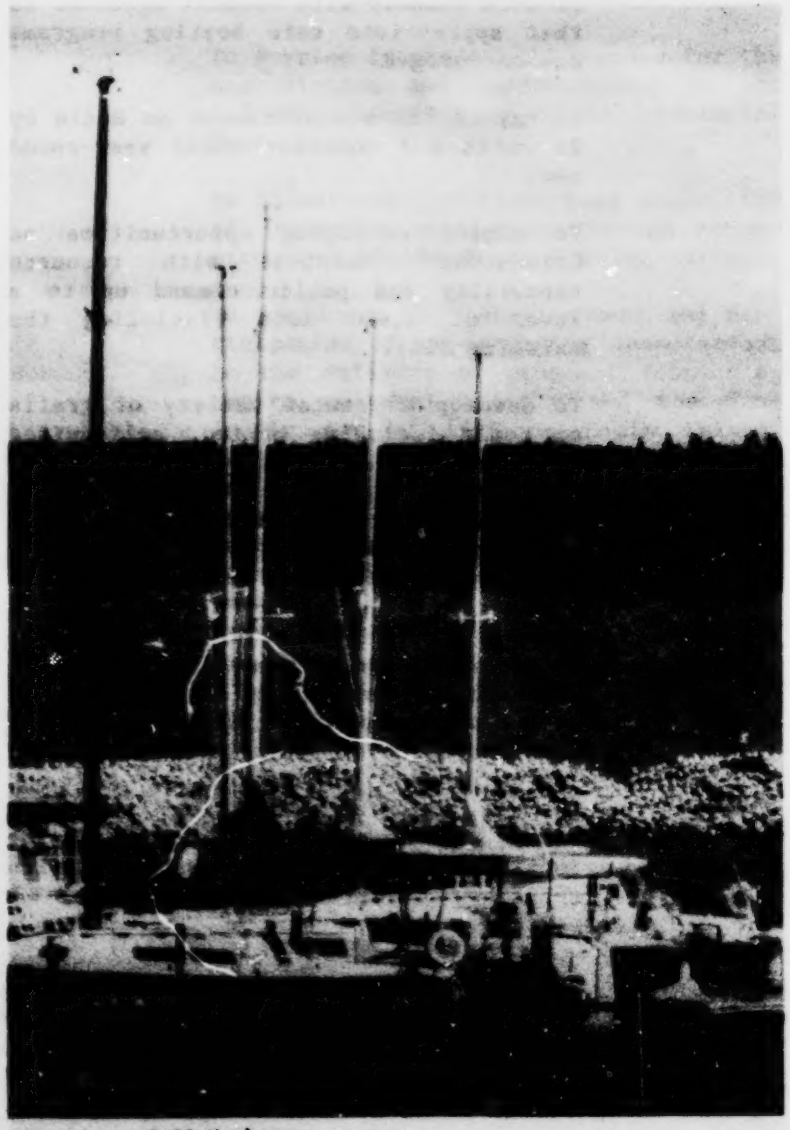


Photo 8. Gull Harbour

3.4 COMMERCIAL RESOURCE USE

To recognize as long-term commitment the silica sand operation on Black Island.

To recognize commercial fishing as an ongoing activity and integrate it with other park programs.

To permit small-scale commercial harvesting such as fuelwood, post and pole cutting on Grindstone.

To permit small-scale timber cutting on Hecla for park purposes such as public safety, wildlife habitat improvements, and/or as part of program designed to re-create the cultural history.

Photo 9. Ice-house, Hecla Village

3.5 OTHER OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the existing boundaries of Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks and identify appropriate adjustments.

To identify complementary services and facilities to Hecla and Grindstone which could be provided in regional communities.

4.0 Management and Development

Photo 10. Saulteaux Indian. Sketch by Henri Julien

4.1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource management guidelines and procedures ensure complete protection of some natural areas and cultural features. They also provide for the enhancement of resources such as wildlife habitat, or regulation of the commercial harvest of resources.

Effective resource management requires up-to-date information on which to base rational decisions. Detailed documentation of significant and sensitive features, scientific research, and continuous monitoring of resource use, is important to the management of park lands. This requires the co-operation of several government branches and departments, as well as other research organizations.

Special areas contain geological, biological or cultural heritage features. Different features such as rare plants or limestone cliffs can vary in their tolerance to human disturbance, and therefore require different management guidelines. Although many special features are well known, such as the red pine stand on Black Island, many have yet to be identified. As these features are identified, they will be catalogued and management requirements will be prescribed for their protection.

Periodic requests are received from researchers to conduct scientific investigations. Scientific research by recognized scientific institutions or by accredited individuals will be permitted where it can benefit specific resource management or educational programs. Research projects will be subject to the following conditions:

- removal of specimens and artifacts from the park will require a permit issued by the Director of Parks.
- researchers must supply a copy of the study results to the Director of Parks.
- collection of any threatened or endangered species will not be allowed.

Research projects directed towards increasing the appreciation of wildlife by park visitors, furthering knowledge of rare and endangered species, and increasing knowledge of the native and Icelandic cultures will be encouraged.

A permit process currently ensures that activities respecting the study, use, or removal of resources within Hecla and Grindstone, are conducted in a manner consistent with park plans and programs. Permit terms and conditions incorporate the requirements of all relevant provincial acts, regulations and guidelines.

4.1.1 NATURAL RESOURCES

Landforms

Representative portions of significant landform features in Hecla Provincial Park will be preserved. These landforms include limestone cliffs, silica beaches, and the red cliffs on Black Island.

Photo 11. Fractured Limestone Cliffs, Hecla Island

Vegetation

Vegetation management will emphasize the protection of significant vegetation communities, the improvement of wildlife habitat and the maintenance of cultural landscapes. Intensive vegetation management will be undertaken to maintain the attractiveness of built-up areas. A variety of techniques, including planting, hay-cutting and controlled burning will be employed. A hands-off or no-management approach in certain areas will allow natural processes to occur.

Vegetation management is an integral tool in wildlife management. The marshes along the western shores of Hecla Island for example are important breeding and staging areas for birds. Water levels in part of the marsh are controlled in order to encourage the growth of plants that are beneficial to nesting birds. Additional water control structures and other techniques will be pursued to further enhance the remaining marsh area.

Wildlife

The area's abundant wildlife is a result of diverse habitats: extensive shorelands and marshes; small islands and reefs; heavily wooded uplands; and the expansive waters of Lake Winnipeg. Wildlife management will emphasize the maintenance and improvement of these habitats and the conservation and protection of wildlife populations in order to provide some of the best opportunities for viewing, interpretation and hunting in any of Manitoba's provincial parks.

The park precepts and objectives, discussed publicly in earlier steps of the planning program, indicated that these management aims would be achieved on different land units of the Hecla-Grindstone planning area. It was proposed that viewing and interpretation be emphasized on Hecla Island, and that hunting opportunities be provided on other islands of Hecla Provincial Park and in the non-built-up areas of Grindstone Provincial Park. In this manner, various public interests respecting wildlife in these parks would be achieved at different locations.

A survey by the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1981 revealed that wildlife-related activities were one of the most prevalent forms of recreation undertaken by Canadians. The potential of Hecla and Grindstone to provide a diversity of wildlife-related activities has not yet been fully realized. The survey indicated further that one out of every five Canadians made a special trip or outing in 1981 for the primary purpose of observing, photographing, feeding or studying wildlife. Hunting attracted one in every ten Canadians in that year. This information is indicative of the values and interests society places on wildlife and of the significant recreation and tourism role that Hecla and Grindstone can fulfill in Manitoba's system of parks. The following discussion elaborates upon several recent initiatives and new programs, particularly in Hecla, to ensure that these parks' outstanding wildlife heritage is enjoyed and appreciated by Manitobans and visitors alike.

Moose

Moose are found throughout the planning area. The presence of these animals has provided park visitors much enjoyment in terms of both viewing and appreciation, and sport hunting.

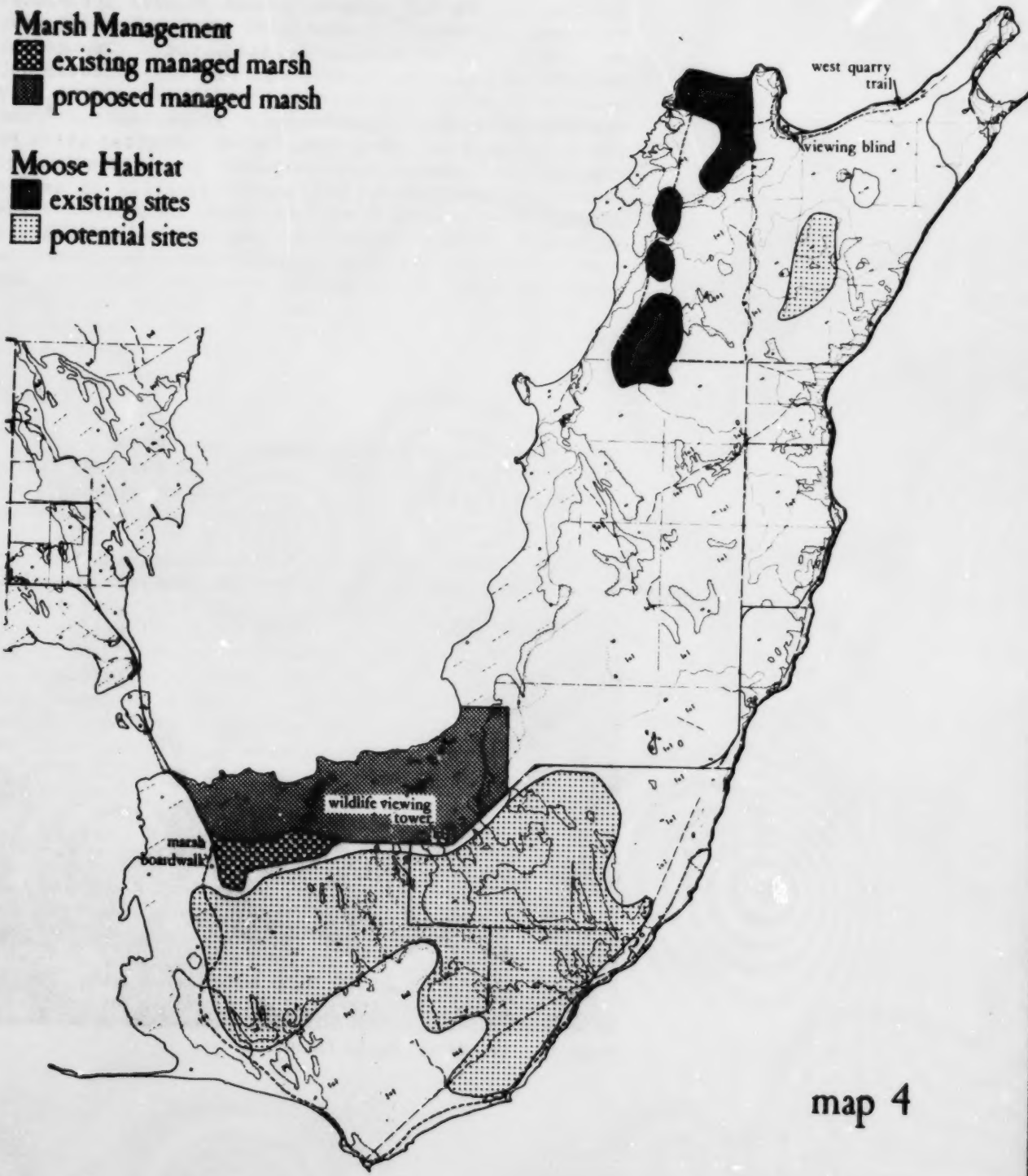
Management efforts will be expanded to both Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks. Population estimates made primarily through aerial surveys have been focused on Hecla Island. There is a need both to expand and improve population estimating throughout the planning area. Habitat management will vary from site to site. Whereas no specific habitat improvement measures are proposed on Black or Deer Islands, future forestry harvesting and renewal operations on Grindstone will be planned to enhance moose habitat requirements.

The most intensive habitat management projects will initially be on Hecla. In January 1985 the moose population was estimated to number approximately 180 to 200 animals. This is judged to be near the upper limit of the island's carrying capacity. Through habitat enhancement the aim is to achieve a population of 250 to 300 moose on Hecla.

A habitat management program, funded by the Habitat Heritage Fund, was implemented during the winter of 1985. This involved the clearing of small (three to five acre) plots in mature forest cover to increase the availability of browse species for moose. To assess the need for additional management programs, the required studies will be conducted. These will include an ongoing inventory of the population, assessment of winter weather conditions and yearly changes in the utilization and production of food plants. A continuing management program will be required to support the proposed population level. This would involve creating small clearings in mature forest cover at five to ten year intervals. The locations of recent habitat plots and priority areas within which future habitat improvement work will be conducted are shown on Map 4.

Photo 12. Cow Moose, Hecla Island

Habitat Management Programs



map 4

Sport hunting will be provided in Grindstone Provincial Park and on Black and Deer Islands within Hecla Provincial Park, in areas where there is the least likelihood of conflicts with other park visitors. The requirements of sport rifle hunters, archers and subsistence hunters will be considered in the setting of hunting seasons and the provision of facilities and services such as designated hunting routes.

The matter of sport hunting on Hecla Island requires further discussion. The position stated in earlier park planning reports was that Hecla Island be managed as a refuge giving preeminence to opportunities for viewing and interpretation. There are different points of view about hunting on Hecla evident from public involvement in the planning process to date. One of two distinctive options could be pursued over the life of the plan:

1) Continue to provide sport hunting for moose on an annual basis on Hecla Island, or
2) Designate the whole of Hecla Island as a wildlife refuge.

Public opinion will be crucial in choosing one or the other of these options.

Waterfowl

The western marshes of Hecla Island support a diversity of wildlife and are important nesting and staging areas for the Giant Canada Goose and other waterfowl. With the regulation of Lake Winnipeg in 1975, water levels have on the average decreased approximately 0.5 metres. This has led to a decrease in the ability of Hecla's lakeside marshes to support breeding waterfowl.

In co-operation with Ducks Unlimited, a joint wetland development project was undertaken to improve a portion of this lakeside marsh. The remaining marsh area will also be improved through a system of dikes and water control structures. Water levels over the total marsh area could be managed to promote optimum nesting conditions. Existing and proposed managed marsh units are shown on Map 4.

Colonial Nesting Birds

The Pipestone Rocks, located at the northern extremity of Hecla Park, are a significant nesting area for pelicans, cormorants and gulls. Sandy Point, a sand spit at the southwestern corner of Hecla Island, is an important nesting area for terns and gulls. These areas offer excellent opportunities for close observation of many otherwise wary species. Disturbance of the colonies by even a brief visit, however, may have disastrous consequences. If eggs or young are left by their parents even for a short time, they may be killed by other birds, or perish from either cold or excessive heat. By observing the colonies from a distance, and avoiding these areas during the critical nesting period, visitors may still enjoy these spectacular sights. No access to the colonies will be allowed from May to August without a permit from the Director of Parks.

Photo 13. Young Cormorant, Pipestone Rocks

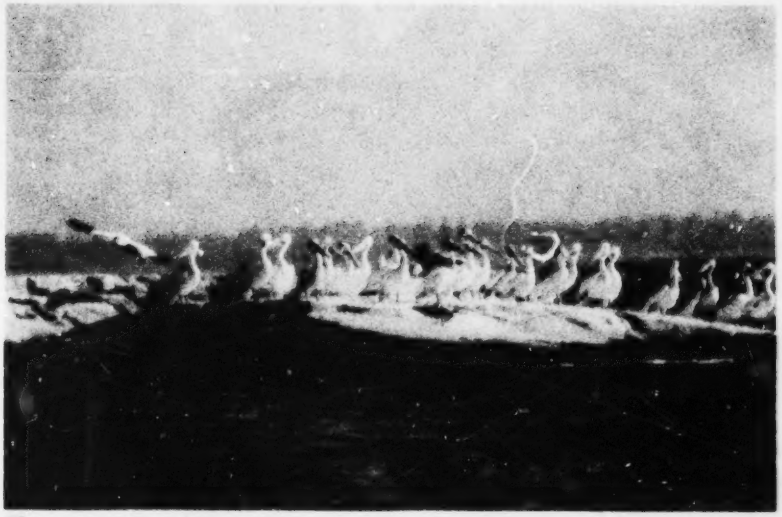


Photo 14. Pelicans, Pipestone Rocks

Fish

There are a variety of different fish habitats within the study area. For example, the causeway marsh area contains pike and carp, while the reefs on the south end of Hecla are important spawning grounds for walleye. The islands and shoals of the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg are also attractive spawning areas for walleye. These fish later spread out into the north and south basin of the lake as adults.

Fish management will ensure that important spawning and nursery areas are identified and protected from developments such as marinas and pollutants. While borrow pits along the Grindstone road will continue to be stocked, no fish stocking will take place on Hecla Island.

4.1.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources in Hecla and Grindstone Parks are primarily related to early native use and Icelandic settlement. A significant remnant of the Icelandic material culture is intact, however, much of the evidence of native culture remains undiscovered. Different management strategies will be required, therefore, to preserve and maintain these cultural resources.

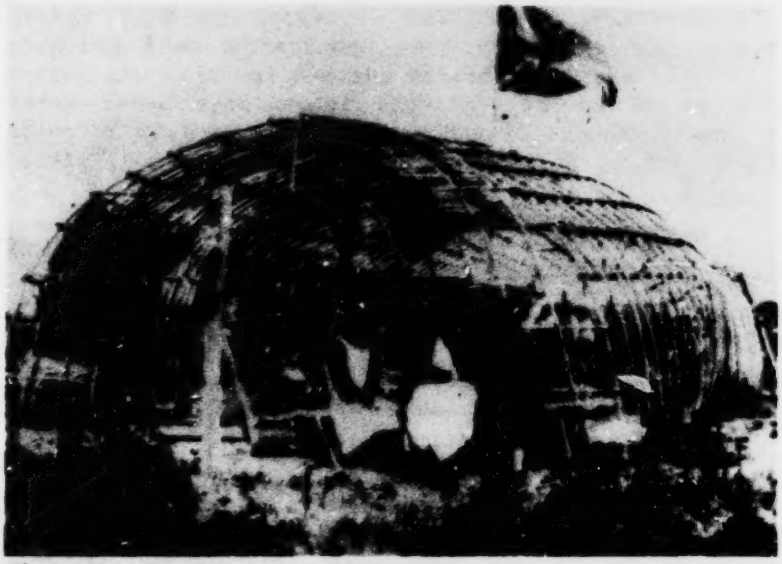


Photo 15. Dancing Lodge, 1933

Native Cultural Resources

Additional research will be encouraged to expand knowledge about the location and use of areas which have been or are significant in terms of native history and culture. Known archaeological sites and suspected areas of importance will be protected from uses that may compromise their integrity. Opportunities for research will be assured in this manner.

As further information is gained, appropriate steps will be taken to protect discovered features, and to incorporate this new information into interpretive programs. The Historic Resources Branch will be consulted in all matters relating to research programs and management of native cultural resources.

Photo 16. Saulteaux Woman and Child, c. 1885

Icelandic Cultural Resources

The management of cultural resources related to Icelandic culture will focus primarily upon maintaining structures of historical significance on Hecla Island.

To date, building stabilization has been concentrated in the immediate vicinity of Hecla Village. Additional structures exist, however, beyond this limited area, stretching along the lakeshore for several miles. Stabilization of these structures is desirable in order to maintain this cultural landscape.

Buildings are stabilized by treating a structure in order to prevent further deterioration without significantly altering its outward appearance or interior layout, design and fabric. This approach will be continued with the structures of heritage value on Hecla Island. Restoration, on the other hand, returns a building to its original appearance at a specific historical period, often involving the removal of later additions and replacing earlier features. This approach is more costly and involves considerable research. With sufficient interest and financial resources from outside the Parks Branch, however, restoration of key structures such as the Tomasson's boarding house may be undertaken. Reconstruction of buildings that no longer stand, based on archaeological, historical and architectural records, could be pursued also if funding were obtained from a variety of sources. The repair, alteration, renovation, demolition or removal of any structures of apparent heritage value will be undertaken only with the approval of the Director of Parks.

Where possible, stabilized buildings may be used for commercial or park purposes when the proposed use is consistent with the original use of the structure. Every effort will be made to retain the original character of the building, its site, and surrounding environment. Incompatible construction styles and materials in buildings or adjacent structures, including fences and gates, for example, will not be introduced.

Photo 17. S. Sigurgeirsson's Frame House Before Restoration

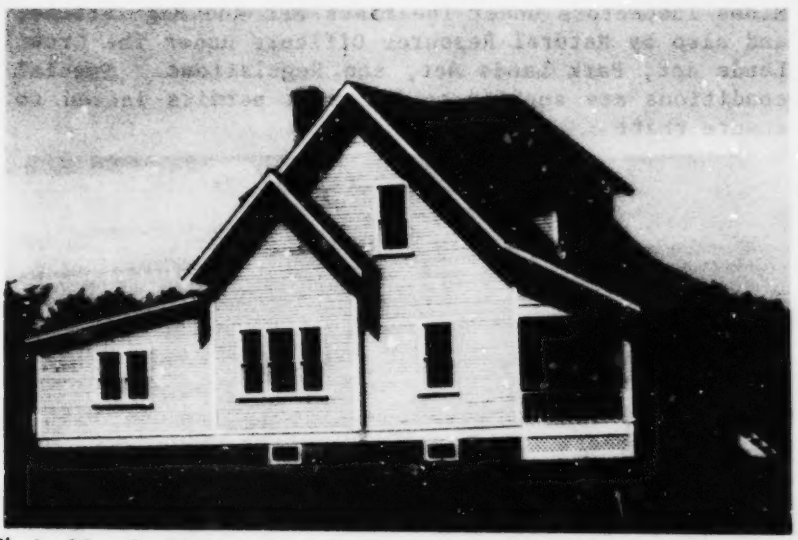


Photo 18. S. Sigurgeirsson's Frame House After Restoration, 1984

Photo 19. Silica Sand Mine, Black Island

4.1.3 COMMERCIAL RESOURCES

Mining

The major mining interests in the planning area consist of the silica sand operation on Black Island and a potential peat operation in Grindstone Provincial Park (Map 2). Authorization of any mining, peat or quarry operation requires approval by the Director of Parks. Enforcement is carried out by Mines Inspectors under The Mines Act and Regulations, and also by Natural Resource Officers under The Crown Lands Act, Park Lands Act, and Regulations. Special conditions are applied to all work permits issued to ensure that:

- all existing Acts and Regulations are adhered to;
- existing or proposed patterns of recreational use are not interfered with, and;
- special areas are protected.

The proposal to mine peat from Grindstone has been reviewed by all pertinent branches within the Departments of Mines, Natural Resources, and Environment and Workplace Safety and Health. A quarry mineral lease has been issued as a result of this review. Before the commencement of mining activities, however, all aspects of development and operations will be subject to approved terms and conditions. New rehabilitation regulations for pits and quarries prepared by Mines Branch will apply to the silica sand operation.

Forestry

Commercial forestry operations will be restricted to Grindstone Provincial Park. On Hecla Island, commercial operations will only be considered where they can assist park programs and purposes such as sanitation cutting or wildlife habitat improvement. These operations must be approved by the Director of Parks. No cutting operations will be allowed on Black Island in order to allow natural processes to take their course.

Specific allocations on Grindstone will be based on a five year plan for harvesting and regeneration. This plan will be developed jointly by Parks and Forestry Branches. Timber harvesting operations will be conducted mainly in the winter months. Operations will be kept as small and consolidated as possible.

The District Office in consultation with regional park personnel may issue permits for forestry operations on Grindstone provided that they are consistent with an operating plan approved by the Director of Parks. The forestry management plan for Grindstone will ensure that cutting practices and reforestation programs do not adversely impact recreation use or potential.

Photo 20. Logging Operation

Agriculture

Limited agricultural activities occur in Grindstone Provincial Park on Crown as well as private lands (Map 3). Permit terms and conditions applicable to agricultural activities on Crown lands will ensure the protection of wetlands for sustained waterfowl production and staging, as well as public access for recreation.

Haying permits may be issued on Hecla Island for fire control purposes or to maintain the cultural landscape.

Commercial Fishing

Fishing quotas on Lake Winnipeg are established annually by the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Natural Resources and licenses are allocated accordingly. Currently, there are several licensed fishermen operating from bases on Hecla Island. Spring, fall and winter seasons generally run from June 1 to July 10, Labour Day to October 30, and from the first ice after November 1 to March 31, respectively. The majority of the catch is sold through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation although commercial fishermen may obtain a special vendors permit to sell directly to park visitors.

Generally, the administration of this activity rests with the Fisheries Branch and the Natural Resource Officers of the Department.

Trapping

Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks are not included in a Registered Trapline District. However, the harvest of furbearers is open to the holders of a trapping license throughout the planning area with the exception of the wildlife refuge on Hecla Island.

Trapping will continue in the planning area (excepting Hecla Island) under this "open-area" system.

Photo 21. Viewing Blind Under Construction, West Quarry Trail

4.2 INTERPRETATION PROGRAM

Hecla's diversity of natural and cultural features that warrant its designation as a heritage park also make it an outstanding setting for an interpretation program. Few places in Manitoba have Hecla's geological formations and lake environment with colonial nesting birds, vast marshes and wildlife - including one of the province's highest concentrations of moose. The importance of Black Island to the native culture and the settlement of Hecla Island by Icelandic immigrants are also unique aspects of the park that visitors will find interesting.

Interpretation is defined as

> "any means of communication designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage to the public through firsthand involvement with an object, artifact, landscape on site" (Association of Canadian Interpreters 1976).

The interpretation program will focus on Hecla Provincial Park. Generally, it consists of amphitheatre programs, self-guiding trails, special events, and orientation to the park's natural, cultural and recreational features. Through signs, brochures, visitor centres, and similar means, recreational and educational experiences are provided for visitors to enhance their enjoyment of the park.

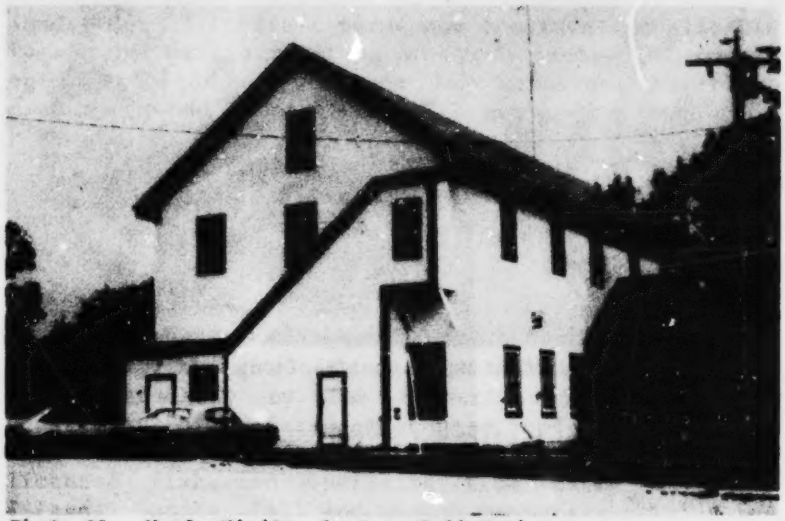


Photo 22. Hecla Visitor Centre, Gull Harbour

4.2.1 ORIENTATION AND PARK INFORMATION

Orientation to Hecla Provincial Park will be provided at several key locations. The park entrance, visitor centre at Gull Harbour, the Gull Harbour Resort Hotel, and the Campground Office will have information on things to do and places to see in the area.

Park Entrance

Hecla Provincial Park begins where the causeway first encounters Lake Winnipeg. The present park entrance gate is located some distance along the causeway on Hecla Island itself. A new park entrance is proposed to give visitors a better sense of being on an island and entering a park.

The new park entrance facility would be located near the site of the former ferry terminal on the mainland along Provincial Road 233. It would include an orientation display featuring a map of the park's major facilities and a new entrance sign (see Figure 2).

Visitor Centre

The former Cantoba Club building at Gull Harbour will be renovated for use as a visitor centre. It will provide orientation to the Hecla-Grindstone area for visitors and highlight all of the things to do and places to explore in the parks. Informative publications, maps and displays will be provided in the centre, along with a food concession offering light meals, snacks and beverages.

Gull Harbour Resort Hotel

The hotel can be used more effectively as an activity and orientation site. Displays and printed material will be provided in the Gull Harbour Resort to encourage its guests and other visitors to use and enjoy the park's facilities and its natural features.

Campground Office

The office at the campground will have a limited number of park publications available.

Photo 23. Campground Office, Gull Harbour

Hecla Island Marsh Conceptual Development Plan

1 park entrance at causeway

6 wildlife viewing tower

2 boat channel

5 managed marsh

3 south end trail

4 natural marsh

Figure 2

4.2.2 NATURAL HISTORY

Hecla contains an excellent environment for an interpretation program. The emphasis of the interpretation program is placed upon experiencing the feature where it occurs naturally. Opportunities to learn about wildlife, fish, geological features and other aspects of natural history will be provided through such things as self-guiding trails or guided boat tours, for example.

Landforms

The limestone cliffs, old quarries and beaches provide opportunities for interpreting geological history. Millions of years of history are revealed in the beds of sandstone and limestone that may be readily observed along the shores of Hecla, Deer, Punk, and Little Punk Islands, as well as Grindstone Point. A cephalopod that once lived in the ocean that disappeared some 60 million years ago can be found fossilized in a shoreline outcrop. Through signs, brochures, or occasional special tours, these features will be interpreted for visitors.

Photo 14. Fossil of Cephalopod

Vegetation

The mixed forest covering the Hecla-Grindstone area is typical of that found throughout much of northern Canada. There are several sites, however, that support rare or unique vegetation such as the red pine stand on Black Island. Self-guiding trails, designed in such a way as to avoid damage to rare plants, will be developed to interpret both the typical and unusual plant species. Trails similar to the West Quarry Trail will be developed to interpret wildlife, as well as the vegetation important to wildlife habitat.

Photo 25. Blue Flag (Iris versicolor)

Wildlife

The marshes along the western shores of Hecla Island are important breeding and staging areas for waterfowl. A portion of the marsh adjacent to the causeway is managed in order to maximize waterfowl production. A boardwalk has been developed in this portion of the marsh to provide better access for visitors. Spring is the best time to observe birds in the marsh. Pelicans, cormorants, herons, many varieties of ducks and Giant Canada Geese are found in abundance, along with some rare visitors like the Great Egret.

Even greater enjoyment of the bird life could be experienced through the development of further boardwalks and trails through the marsh. The construction of a new managed marsh unit north of the causeway will incorporate floating and fixed boardwalks, access dikes, activity centres and viewing blinds.

Activities for visitors in this area would include learning to identify birds, photography, studying bird behavior and nesting activity, as well as learning about the insects, invertebrates and other life forms found in the marsh.

A tower has been constructed at the southern end of Hecla Island that provides an excellent view of the transition area from forest to marsh (see Figure 2). Moose are known to pass through this area as they move from the forest cover to the marshes to feed.

The moose on Hecla Island have the potential to be a main attraction of this park. Indeed, Hecla Island, by virtue of its accessibility and dense population of moose, provides the most outstanding opportunity in Manitoba for the public to view and appreciate this majestic animal. In addition to the viewing tower and trails recently completed, a wide range of activities will be developed to increase public opportunities to observe and learn about moose. Observation blinds, tracking demonstrations, including radio telemetry tracking of individual animals, calling demonstrations and photo tours will be employed to make Hecla a place of provincial and national renown for moose interpretation and research.

Another feature of particular interest in Hecla is the Pipestone Rocks. Located at the northern extremities of the park, these islands are a significant nesting area for pelicans, cormorants and gulls. Boat tours from Gull Harbour to this area could be provided. The tours would be conducted so that the colonies were observed from a safe distance in order to avoid disrupting nesting birds.

Fish

Lake Winnipeg's fish and their importance to both the native and Icelandic inhabitants over the years make it another feature emphasized in the interpretation program. Different areas of the lake are used by different species of fish. The interrelationship between these fish species and the lives of the fishermen will be explored together in the interpretation program. Boat tours may be organized to demonstrate where the various species are found. Netting demonstrations in Hecla Village will incorporate nets set at varying distances from the shoreline to highlight any differences in the species caught.

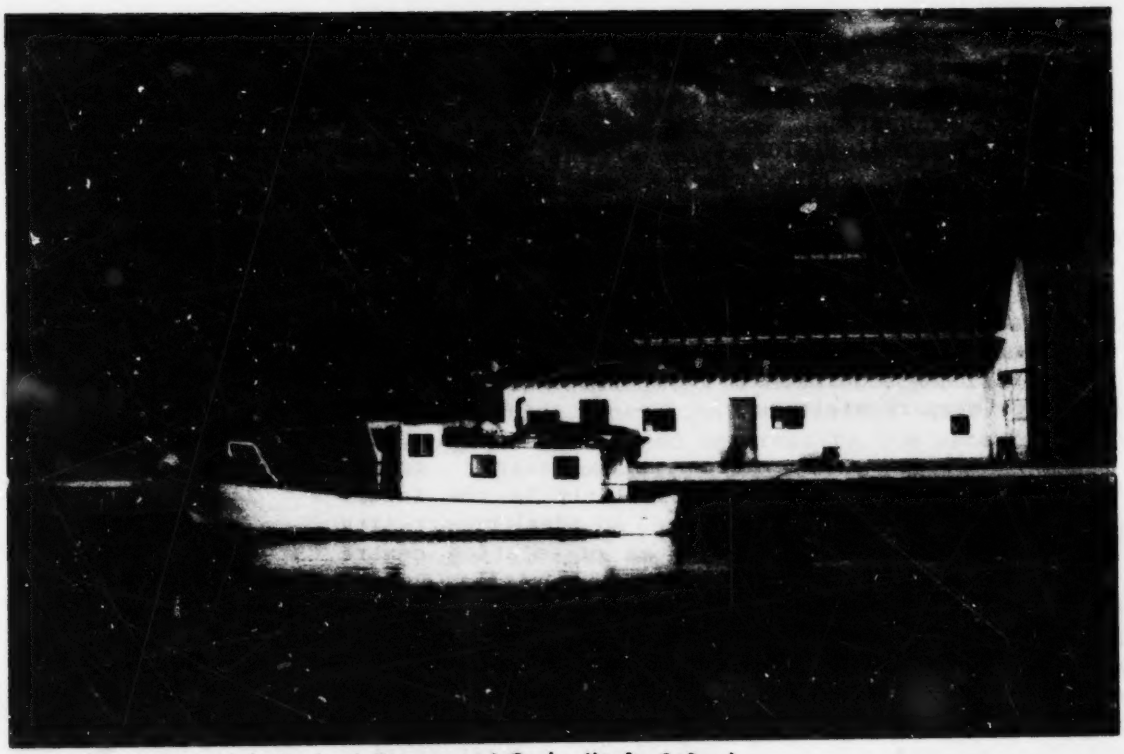


Photo 26. Whitefish Boat at Government Dock, Hecla Island

Photo 27. Saulteaux Family Travelling

4.2.3 CULTURAL HISTORY

Native Cultural History

Knowledge about native use of Hecla Provincial Park has not been well documented or researched to date. Considerable archaeological and ethnological study will be required in order to interpret native culture for park visitors.

Close co-operation with nearby native communities is essential, particularly in the interpretation of the native culture. An ideal opportunity exists for the development of an orientation centre outside the park in one of the communities on the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg, with a satellite program on Black Island. This facility could be developed by the community itself, and funded through a variety of interested private and public sources. The orientation centre on the mainland could be linked to the program on Black Island by a boat-touring operation based at the centre. Development on Black Island could consist of a recreated Medicine Lodge and traditional encampment, offering demonstrations or presentations for visitors using the tour boat service. The orientation centre and satellite program could also serve as a destination point for boaters or boat-touring operations based at Gull Harbour.

Icelandic Cultural History

Interpretation of the Icelandic settlement on Hecla Island and the development of commercial operations that are consistent with the original use of some buildings provides an opportunity to preserve many of the remaining structures on Hecla Island that are of historical significance. While recreational and residential development have obscured most of the original settlement pattern in the rest of what was once New Iceland, this river lot system settlement pattern remains intact in Hecla Village. For this reason, the special arrangement of the various structures is as significant as the structures themselves. Access to the lake for fishing and transportation, along with the need for a homestead garden and pasture, resulted in the settlement being arranged in long narrow lots, originally one quarter mile wide by one mile deep, all along the island's eastern shore. When the development plan for Hecla Village was proposed in 1983, it recognized the significance of the original settlement pattern in the lives of the islanders. Rather than create an assembled village, concentrating the remaining historical buildings in a contrived "fishing village", the buildings will be stabilized and interpreted on their original sites.

Hecla Village does not lend itself well to a period restoration, recreating a specific era in the history of the community, as most of the buildings are second or third generation structures. Each structure is being stabilized and returned to its appearance in the era when it was first completed.

The interpretation program for the Hecla settlement focuses on the core area of the community, lying between the boarding house and the church. The building stabilization program has been concentrated in this area and a self-guiding trail utilizing signs and a brochure has been developed (Figure 3). The trail traces the development of the community from 1876 until the present. It examines the reasons for leaving Iceland, the attraction of the western shores of Lake Winnipeg, and the economic, social and religious activities that took place in the settlement.

Hecla Village Conceptual Development Plan with Self-Guided Walk

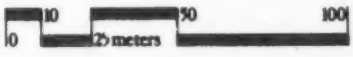


Figure 3

To accommodate the development of an interpretation program in the short-term without limiting the options for future development, three different activity centres were identified in the village. The Tomasson's Boarding House is a unique feature of the village, and may function in future as a bed and breakfast style accommodation, so it is interpreted separately from the self-guiding trail. The dock-side fishing station will also perform a unique function in the village, that of a sales outlet for fish, so it too is not included along the self-guiding trail proper. It will, however, house displays related to commercial fish species and fishing techniques, past and present. The self-guiding trail itself begins at the icehouse north of the dock and follows the lakeshore as far as the church, returning past the store and school. Descriptive signs have been placed at each key feature or point of interest, while the brochure ties each of these features together in a logical sequence, tracing the history of the settlement from 1876 until the present.

Each key feature or stop along the trail has been assigned an appropriate message or theme in the development of the community. Life on the homestead at the turn of the century, for example, is depicted at the log house. In future, this site may be further developed along this theme to include a small garden plot, livestock pasture, restoration and furnishing of the interior, and demonstrations such as wool spinning or boat building. The initial interpretation program will only involve walk-through access to this building, along with a few displays and artifacts, but over several years a recreated homestead could be achieved.

The further development of an interpretation program for Hecla Village could benefit greatly from the creation of a co-operating association. Individuals interested in providing demonstrations and sharing their knowledge of the Icelandic culture could operate and maintain many of the village buildings. The community hall, frame house, log house and icehouse would be made available to the association, as would the school. The school could serve as a base of operations for the association, perhaps housing a library and book sales outlet. Revenue generated from sale and donations could be used to further develop the interpretation program in the village.

4.3 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Recreational facilities, services and programs provide the means to enjoy a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. While the majority of such opportunities are provided by the public sector, the opportunity for the private sector to become involved in the delivery and operation of recreational services also exists. Recreational facilities, services, and programs include intensive recreational facilities such as picnic sites and playgrounds; boating facilities and associated programs; a variety of accommodation types such as campgrounds, lodges, cottage subdivisions and rental cabins; trail systems and other services such as food, gasoline and retail outlets.

4.3.1 INTENSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Intensive recreational facilities are located in areas where large number of visitors congregate to pursue specific types of recreation.

Picnic Sites

The five picnic areas in the parks are the North Point, Gull Harbour Marina, Quarry, and South Hecla Village sites on Hecla Island, and the Boat Launch site on Grindstone. All except the South Hecla Village site will continue to be maintained. A picnic site will be provided near the wharf to replace the South Hecla Village site.

Playgrounds

Creative children's playgrounds such as those at Lagoon Beach will be established in areas of intensive use such as the Gull Harbour Resort Hotel and the Gull Harbour Campground.

Boating Facilities and Programs

The promotion of safe boating and the enjoyment of a variety of features afforded by Lake Winnipeg will be a major focus of park programs and development. The south basin of Lake Winnipeg offers warm waters and freshwater yachting opportunities as well as numerous secluded harbours and fabulous beaches, all within easy reach of Gull Harbour. Many of these facilities as well as other points-of-interest are illustrated on Map 5. (THIS MAP IS NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES). Gull Harbour also serves as an ideal take-off point for boaters seeking the challenge of "open-sea" travel and wilderness adventures beyond the "narrows".

Boating facilities on Hecla and Grindstone currently consist of launching and docking facilities at Gull Harbour, Hecla Village and Little Grindstone Point. With the exception of Gull Harbour, these sites will generally be maintained at their present level of development. Marina facilities at Gull Harbour, however, will be upgraded and expanded. Ultimately, this marina could provide up to 100 water-serviced slips, fueling slips with pump-out sewage service, and a fire control system. Additional services including a restaurant, grocery store, gasoline sales outlet, storage facilities, public showers, laundry and a mechanical shop for minor boat repairs could be developed. Figure 4 is a conceptual development plan of the Gull Harbour Marina.

Safe boating programs are offered by a variety of organizations. The Red Cross and Manitoba Sailing Association generally deal with several levels of boating and safety training. Such organizations will be encouraged to carry out well-advertised programs on Hecla Island either at the Gull Harbour Marina or at amphitheatre shows.

During the 1984 and 1985 seasons, a private operator provided skippered cruisers and charters utilizing two sailboats based at Gull Harbour. This is just one example of the type of services that could be provided by the private sector. Other opportunities for privately-run services may exist, such as a commercial outfitting service. Visitors would be offered access to remote campsites and beaches, or sport fishing and sight-seeing excursions. Boat tours to Black Island, the Pipestone Rocks, Well's Harbour and other interesting parts of Hecla and Grindstone

could be provided. A larger vessel could accommodate groups on bus tours, convention participants, and other park visitors. In winter, fishermen could provide bombadier transportation and net-lifting demonstrations for visitors.

Map 5 also illustrates some of the services and facilities provided in several communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Additional community-initiated marina developments and improvements would increase the safety level of boating in this area, as well as complement developments in Hecla and Grindstone as alternative destinations.

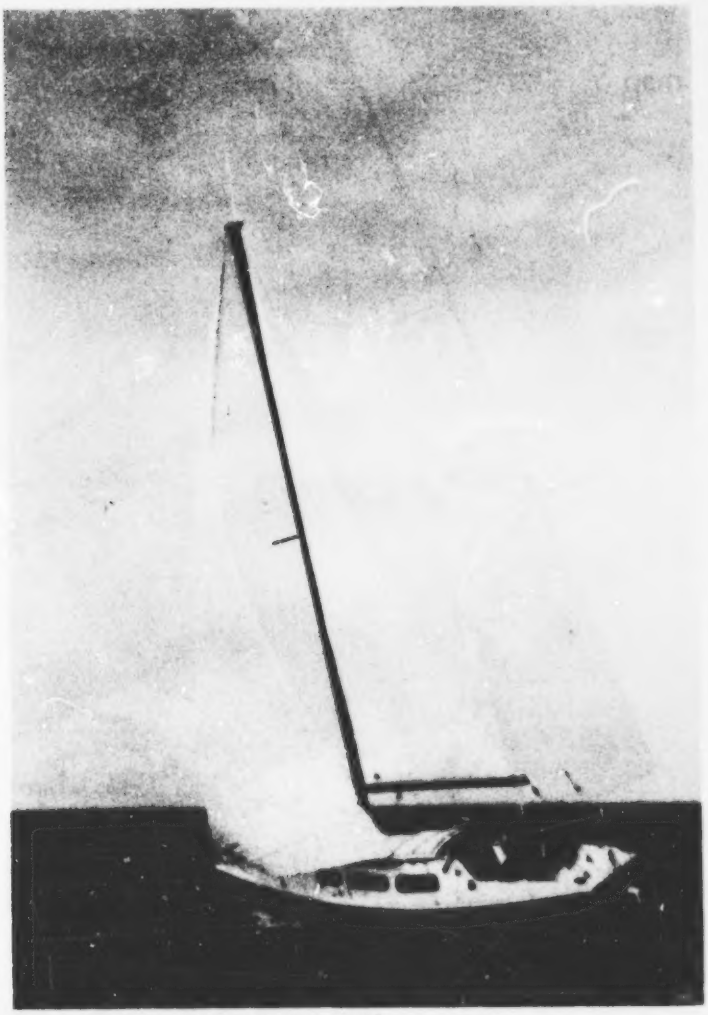
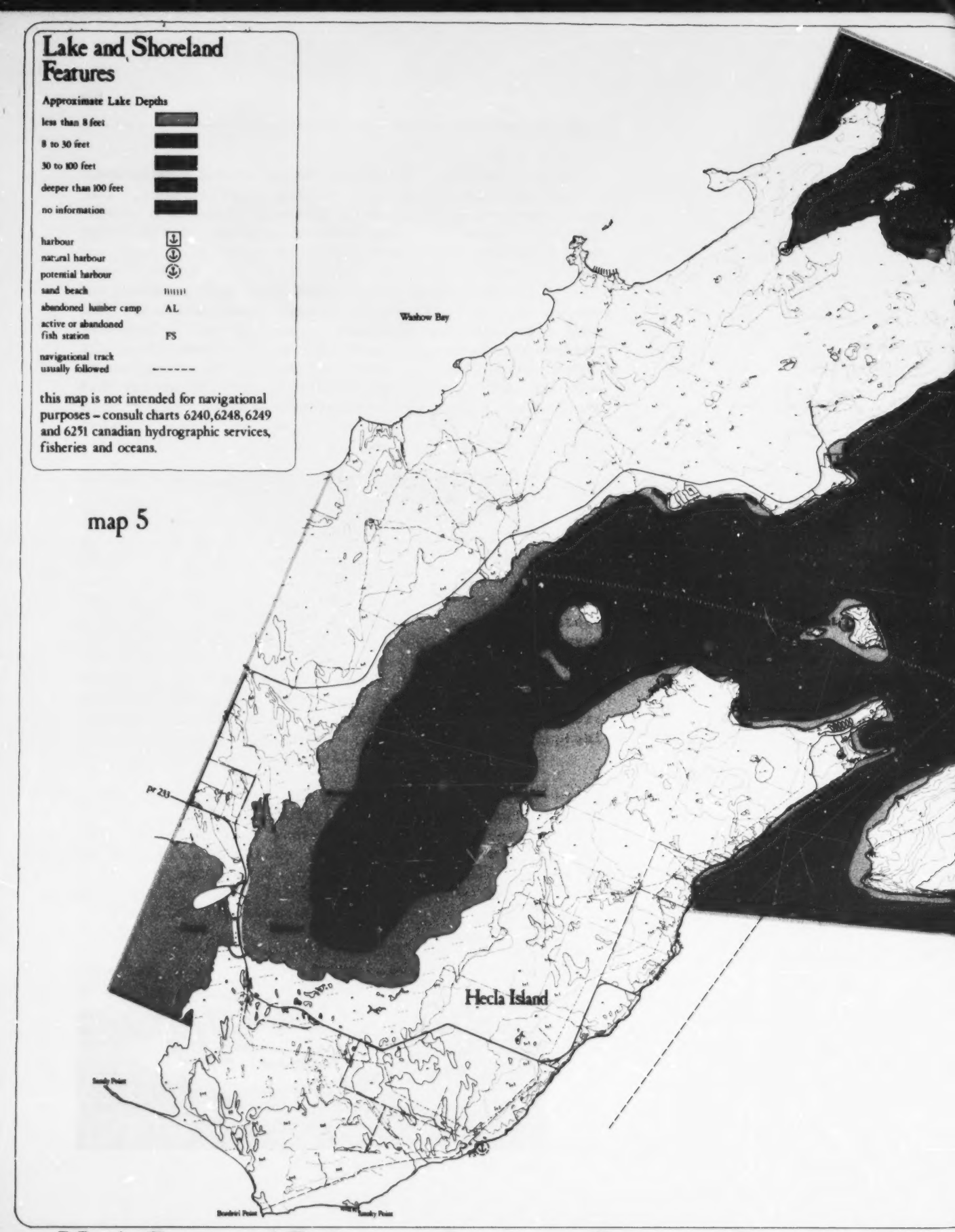
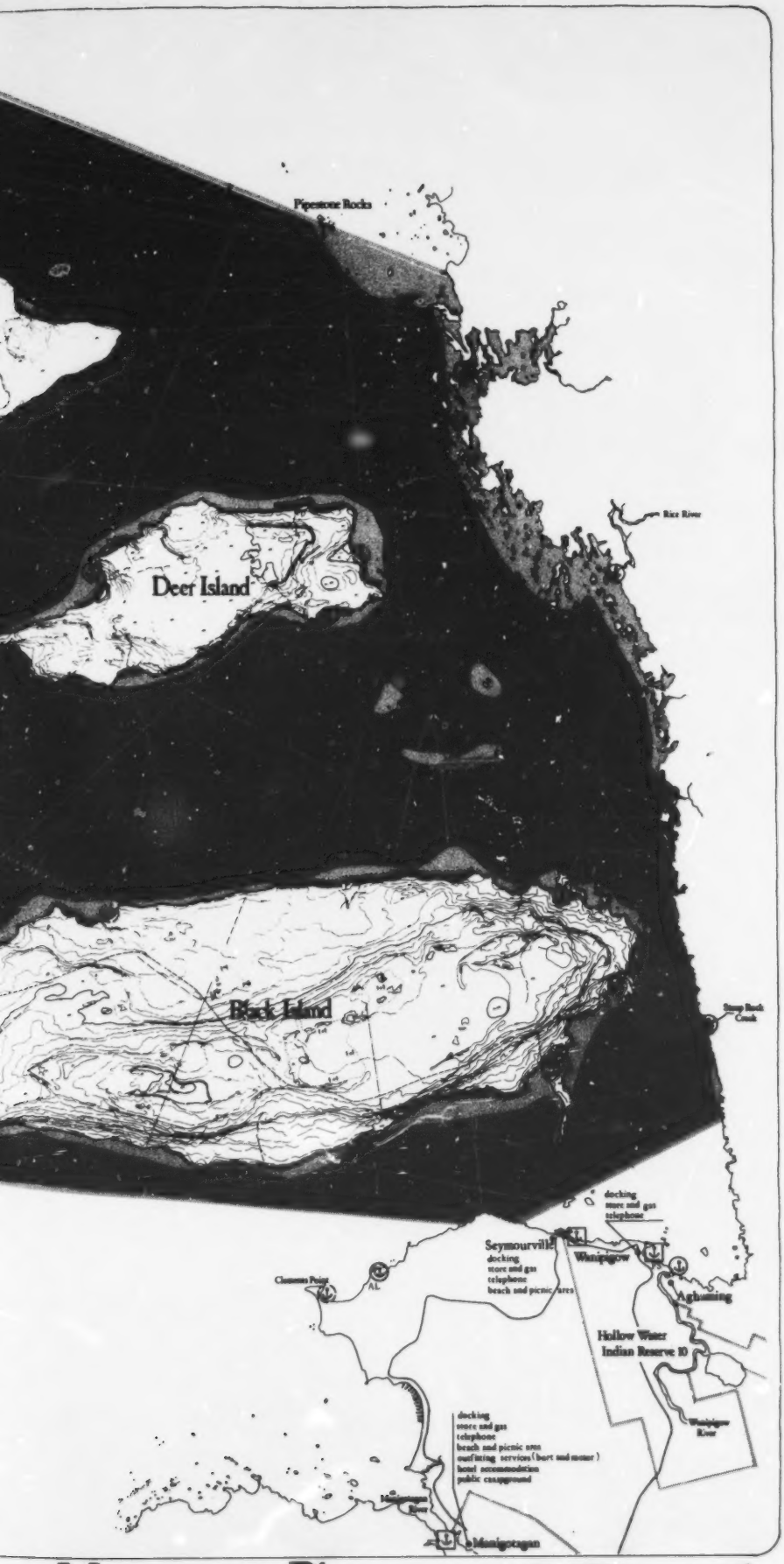


Photo 28. Keelboat Under Sail



Hecla Provincial Park

Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park



Management Plan

Gull Harbour Marina

Hecla Provincial Park

Figure 4

Accommodation

Public accommodations have been established on Hecla Island while Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park has been developed exclusively for cottaging to date. The opportunity exists to increase the number of accommodation units, as well as diversify its range. To this end, some private sector involvement could take place.

At present, there are some 320 units of accommodation in the Gull Harbour area, including the hotel, campground sites and rental cabins. It is estimated, based on an assessment of developed land, that the Gull Harbour area is capable of supporting approximately 550 to 600 units of accommodation. The following development proposals are based on this estimated capacity.

The 213 unit campground at Gull Harbour has been developed primarily to serve camping vehicles. Current use, however, indicate that a significant portion of its occupancy involves tent camping. A new 75 unit campground bay will be developed to accommodate both trailers and tents. As part of the annual upgrading program, consideration will be given to the development of facilities such as kitchen shelters.

The group-use campground on Hecla Island will continue to accommodate this activity. In addition, the area will be used to provide individual tenting sites. A self-registry system will be incorporated.

Hecla and Grindstone offer tremendous potential for primitive or remote area camping. Several primitive campsite locations are proposed; at Well's Harbour, the west quarry on Hecla Island, and along a proposed hiking trail through the south end of Hecla Island. Development will consist of clearing of understory vegetation at specific sites and providing pit privies and fire rings. Additional sites may be developed on Black Island and Deer Island in pace with demand.

The number of rental cabins on Hecla Island will be expanded by 25 units and will continue to be for seasonal use only.

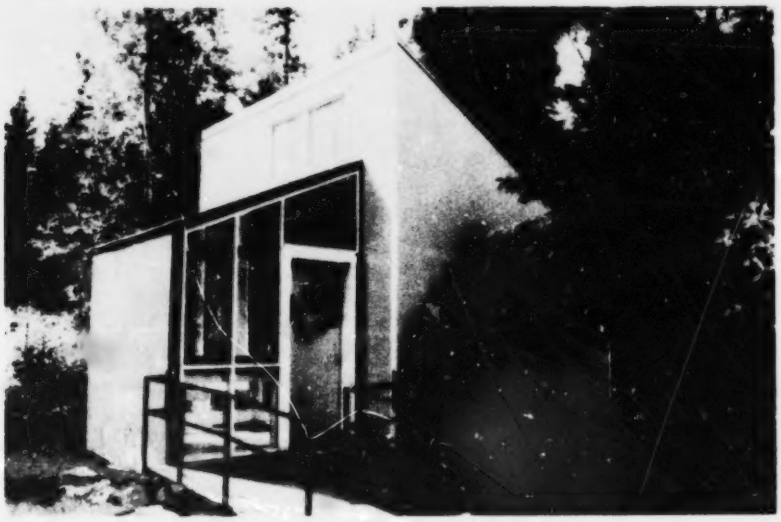


Photo 29. Family Vacation Cabin, Hecla Island

In the past several years approximately 450 cottage lots have been designed in Grindstone Provincial Park. Of this total, approximately 350 lots have been legally surveyed, of which 150 remain undeveloped. It is estimated that potential exists for another 300 lots south of Little Grindstone Point.

In the immediate future, the provision of cottaging in Grindstone will be through the allocation by public draw of the remaining 150 surveyed lots. As the need for additional lots becomes apparent, further development in the area south of Little Grindstone Point would be undertaken on a cost-recovery basis. An approximate total of 750 cottage lots would then exist on Grindstone if all 300 lots were developed.

The development of government camping facilities is not proposed in Grindstone Provincial Park. However, if there were interest by the private sector in developing camping facilities, land for this purpose could be made available. The Parks Branch would entertain serious development proposals and provide assistance in planning such a facility.

It is anticipated that there will be adequate provision of most forms of visitor accommodation in terms of what exists and what is planned. However, there is an opportunity to

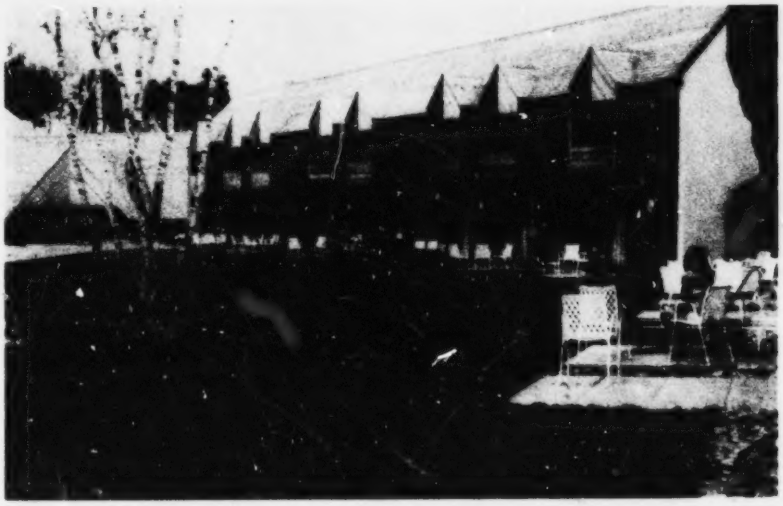


Photo 30. Gull Harbour Resort and Conference Centre

diversify public accommodation facilities in the planning area even further. An evaluation of recent data compiled in Canada, and consultations with Travel Manitoba officials indicate that high-quality, family-style, self-catering accommodations for vacation length stays (+6 days) have considerable popularity in current travel markets. There are very few such facilities in Manitoba and the Hecla-Grindstone area has none. The Gull Harbour Resort has some of these features, but it does not offer self-contained units of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate family size parties for extended periods.

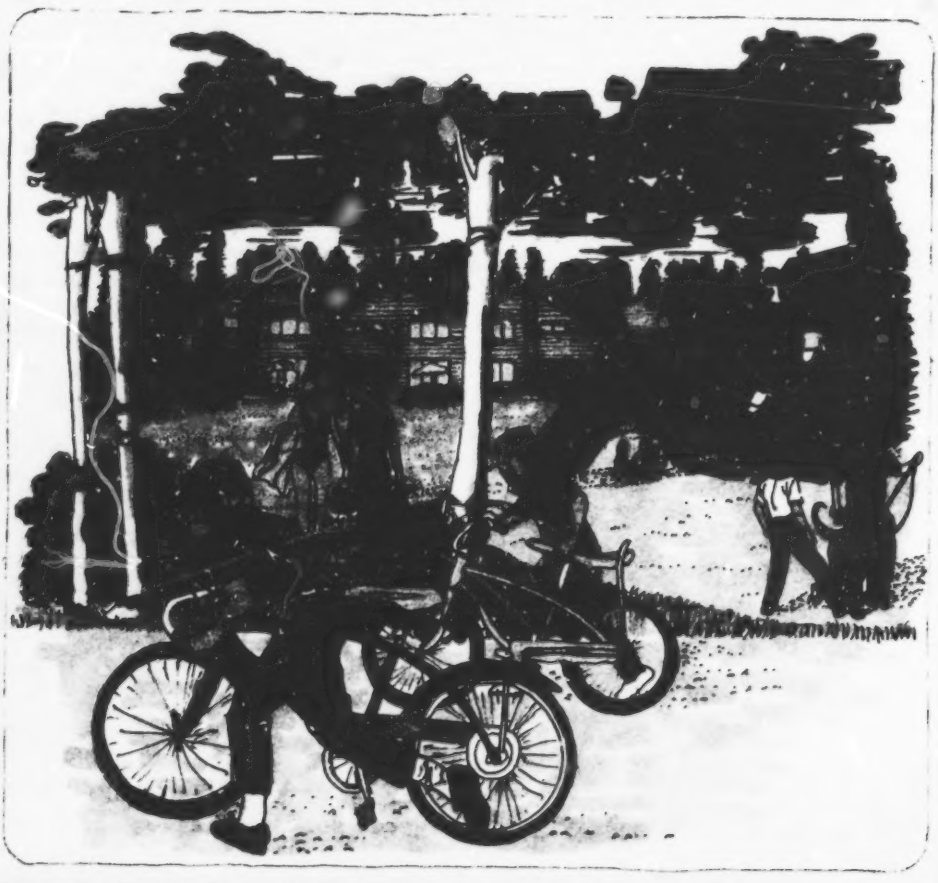
It is the intent of this plan to encourage the private sector to provide self-contained, all-season accommodation for the visiting public. The attractiveness of such accommodations is directly related to available, close at hand recreational activities and attractions - beaches, trails, interpretive programs, golf courses, and interesting things to see and do. Hecla Island is an ideal location in these terms.

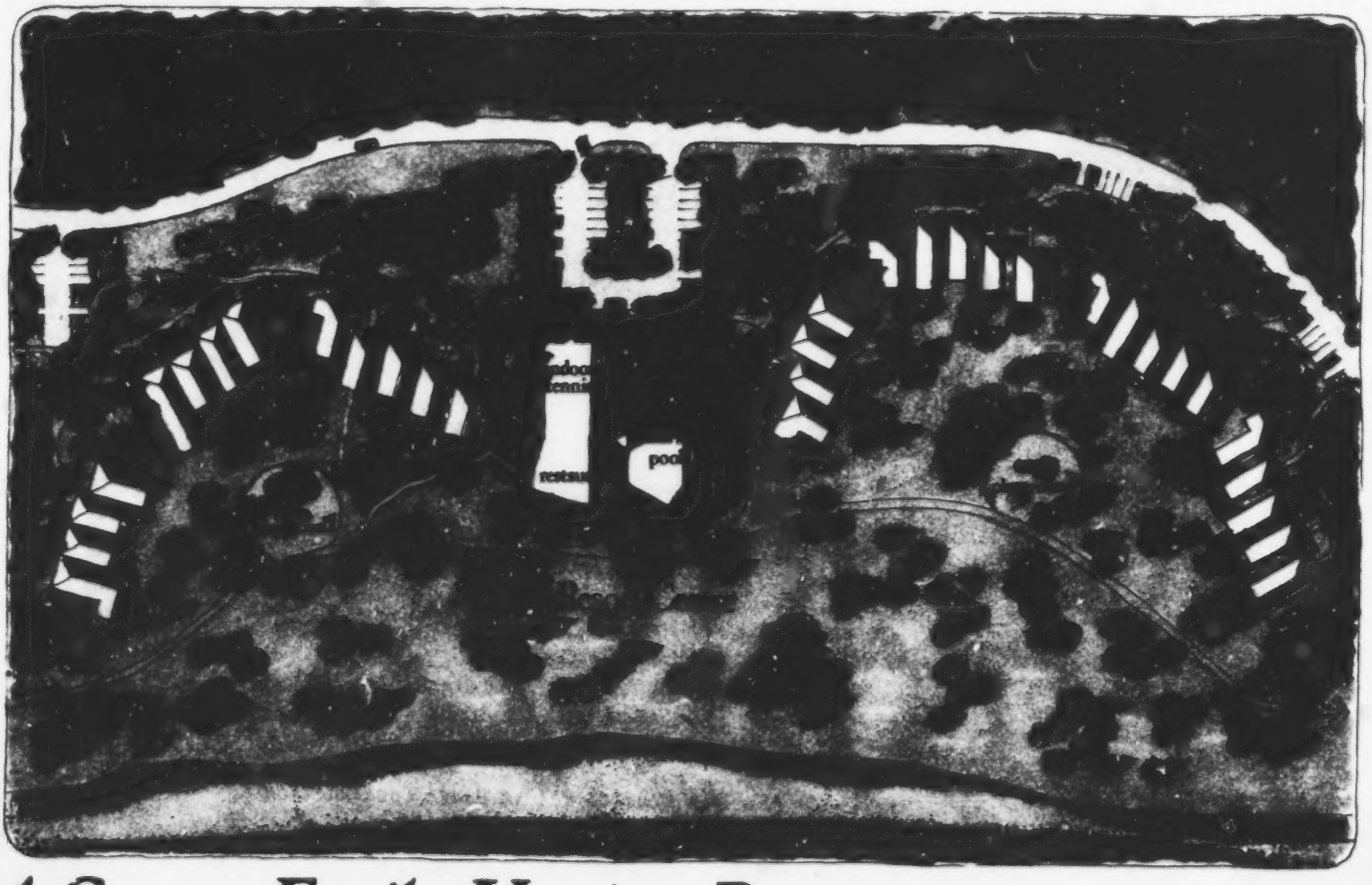
The success of an all-season, family-serving resort depends upon the provision of on-site, year-round amenities such as indoor swimming pools, saunas, hot tubs, court sports, and children's play areas. These features are costly to develop and if a private sector development initiative is to be realized, incentives by the public sector will be required. Alternately, developers would have to be permitted to recover the substantial capital outlays through sale of titled or leasehold interest in accommodation units.

Preliminary assessment indicates that a four-season family vacation resort with up to approximately 100 accommodation units would constitute an ultimate level of such development in the mid-Canada marketplace.

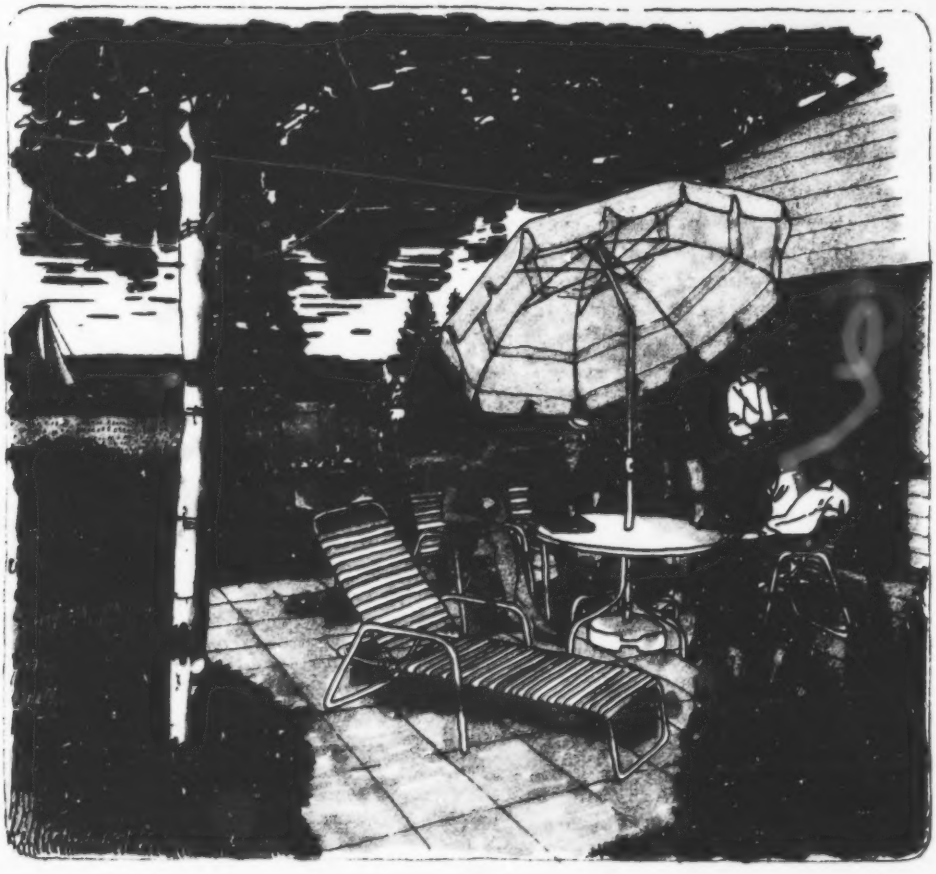
A site analysis was carried out in both Hecla and Grindstone to identify a suitable location for such a resort facility. Factors accounted for were soil drainage, topography, water orientation, developable area and expansion potential, linkages to park and recreation amenities, and potential compatibility with other park uses. Two suitable sites have been identified. Only one would be approved for development. The alternative development sites and an illustration of the resort concept are shown in Figure 5.

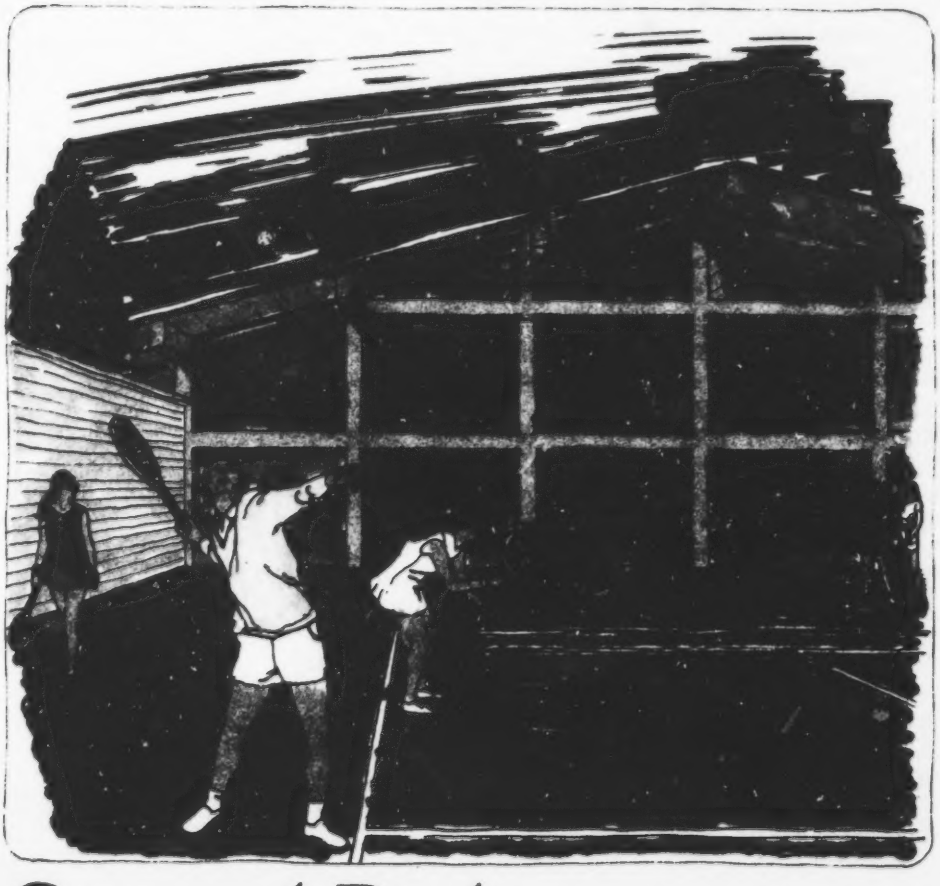
Photo 31. New Wing to Resort Under Construction





4-Season Family Vacation Resort





Conceptual Development Figure 5

If there is private sector interest in providing a family resort, it is critical that it proceeds in a timely, properly-phased manner. Furthermore, it should meet high standards of design and management and provide high quality service to park visitors. With such requirements in mind, the following matters of design guidance and development approval would be typical:

- maximum unit development is two stories;
- maximum height is 28' above average grade;
- maximum number of units which can be attached is six;
- no single unit to exceed 1,500 square feet;
- maximum allowable density is six units/acre for the total development area;
- a minimum of 1/3 of the area is to be left as open space;
- development finishes to be high quality approved materials and colours in keeping with Hecla Island themes, and;
- the need to sell units would be reviewed relative to other available development incentives. If sale is opted for, at least 50% of accommodation units must be retained for general public rental.

A prospectus would be prepared describing such requirements and a public tender call for developer proposals would be undertaken. Prospective developers would be required to provide details such as qualifications, site plans, financial plans, pricing policies, and market analyses with their development proposals. A developer would be selected who best meets the terms set forth and can successfully implement the intended development. Prospective developers would be required to submit details such as qualifications of partners, a complete market analysis, site plan submissions and operational financial plans. Conformity to these steps and principles will result in the selection of developers that can meet the terms and conditions set forth.

Another possible commercial opportunity on Hecla Island would be operation of the Tomasson boarding house as a bed and breakfast style accommodation - its traditional use. This form of accommodation in Hecla Village would offer a unique vacation stay for those interested in the history and atmosphere of the village.

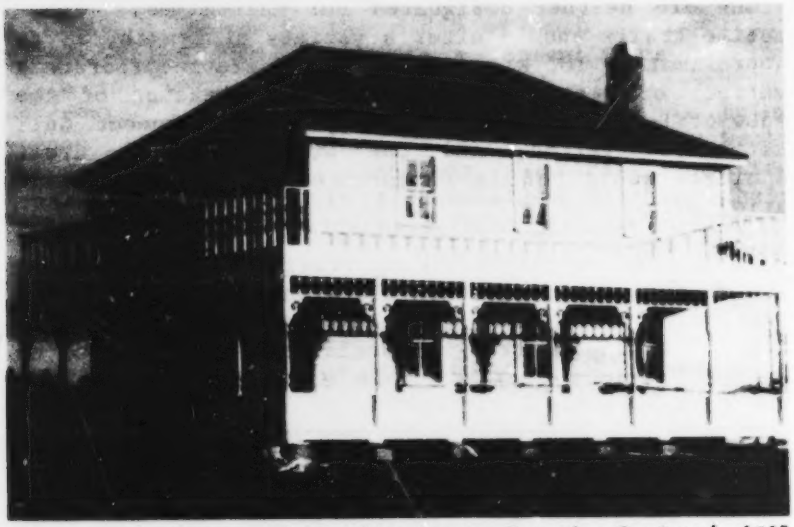


Photo 32. The Tomassons' Boarding House, Exterior Restored, 1985

The Gull Harbour Marina (Figure 4) concept illustrates a small motel facility. A 15 to 30 unit motel could be developed in association with the marina to provide shore-based accommodation for boaters seeking short-term, overnight stays on Hecla Island.

4.3.2 TRAILS

Many existing trails in the parks utilize rights-of-way or old resource trails that were there before the parks were established. Unfortunately, they are not ideal for recreational purposes. The upgrading of existing trails is necessary.

The present cross-country ski trail system on Hecla Island is very popular. Ideally, however, cross-country ski trails should offer as much landscape diversity as possible, there should be a variety of distances, and overnight accommodation should be available. Therefore, the present system will be expanded and upgraded. A new 10 to 20 kilometre trail will be developed to Kjartanson Point, utilizing in part the West Quarry Trail. An overnight shelter will be constructed at Kjartanson Point.

There are approximately 58 kilometres of snowmobile trails on Hecla Island. Trails on Grindstone are neither designated nor maintained. Snowmobile trails should offer a variety of length, up to approximately 100 kilometres, and should incorporate a variety of destinations. A major expansion of the snowmobile trail system is proposed to connect Gull Harbour, Riverton, and the Well's Harbour area. Shelters would be placed enroute and at key destination points.

An overnight hiking trail is proposed along the southeast and southern shoreline of Hecla Island. Designated campsites would be provided along the trail. A bicycle trail on Hecla will be developed to connect various facilities in the Gull Harbour area and to access Hecla Village.

A walking trail has been developed along shores of Gull Harbour, linking the visitor centre, resort hotel and the lighthouses on the spit that forms one arm of the harbour. Orientation and information signs will be placed along the trail to describe the harbour's history. Several other types of trails in the immediate vicinity of the Gull Harbour Hotel will be developed, including a fitness trail. Wherever possible, walking trails in the hotel area will be developed so as to provide barrier-free access.

On Grindstone, there is an opportunity for cottagers to develop a trail to Well's Harbour. This would function as a hiking trail in summer and possibly as a snowmobile trail in winter.

Photo 33. Cross-country Ski Trail

4.3.3 OTHER SERVICES

Located in the midst of such an important commercial fishery, Hecla is a logical site for the sale and promotion of Manitoba fish products. The dock-side fishing station in Hecla Village is being renovated as a fish sales outlet. The facility would be leased to a local fisherman to operate, ensuring that those who are not successful in catching their own breakfast will still have fresh pickerel available for a campfire meal.

Hecla Village also contains the General Store and Post Office. Although an interesting attraction in the village, the store is not conveniently located for campers and boaters. Grocery and gasoline sales will, therefore, be relocated to the Gull Harbour Marina where they will be more accessible to all park users. The store in Hecla Village will continue to offer souvenirs, refreshments and snacks.

Additional opportunities may exist for private sector commercial involvement in Hecla and Grindstone Parks. Arrangements could be made for float-equipped aircraft to pick up people at Gull Harbour for aerial sight-seeing tours or for fishing trips to sites on the east side of the lake. Gull Harbour could be used as a float-plane base initially. As use of the harbour increases with the expansion of marina facilities, an alternate location for float-plane operation would be required.

A site has also been identified for the possible development of a turf-runway on Hecla Island to accommodate light aircraft. The need for such a facility will be assessed as visitation increases in the future.

Proposals for providing services will continue to be given a case-by-case consideration to ensure that they are consistent with park themes.

4.4 OPERATIONS

Park operations include those activities and procedures required for the administration and servicing of park lands and programs. Primary responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the parks is from the District Office in Riverton. Several operational programs and guidelines are discussed below.

4.4.1 OCCUPANCY

Permanent and seasonal occupancy within Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks will be permitted only in specific circumstances. It is intended that 60% of all staff will reside outside the parks. Full-time employees with families will be encouraged to live in local communities. (No school or bus services will be provided by Parks Branch.) Quarters for single seasonal employees will continue to be provided on Hecla Island.

Dependent on the nature of a commercial operation (i.e. seasonal or year-round), operators may be allowed residency in the parks.

The plan recognizes the needs of fishermen in that commercial fishing is a historic use. Requests to use Hecla Island as a base for commercial fishing operations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Priority consideration would be given to fishermen who were previously based on Hecla, those who are willing to participate in programs such as net-lifting demonstations, or to those who are willing to provide services such as boat-touring or transportation to other islands during the commercial fishing off-season. Dwellings would be restricted to either those existing within Hecla Village or to temporary and removable dwellings outside the Village.

A permitting process will ensure that this activity will not conflict with other park uses. Occupancy will be subject to such conditions or requirements as are outlined in The Provincial Park Lands Act and Regulations.

4.4.2 ROADS

Roads within Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks, including campground and subdivision roads, are maintained by Parks Branch. The Department of Highways is responsible for the maintenance Provincial Road 233. Upgrading and asphalt-surfacing of Provincial Road 233 is a priority.

Provincial Road 233 could experience a significant increase in seasonal traffic volumes considering the combined levels of existing and proposed developments in the Gull Harbour area. It may be necessary to re-route traffic away from Hecla Village in order to maintain the aesthetics of the existing lakeshore drive, for pedestrian safety in the village, and to accommodate Gull Harbour destination traffic in the most efficient manner. Future options that could be considered are: routing Provincial Road 233 to by-pass Hecla Village, the creation of a one-way thoroughfare through the village, or closing the village road during the peak tourist season and using a public shuttle service. A shuttle service could also be used to connect various developments at Gull Harbour. If re-routing was necessary, the existing right-of-way behind the village area would be the most desirable route.

Photo 34. Lakeshore Road, Hecla Island

Development of forestry or mining roads will be governed by operating conditions respecting the use and abandonment of these roads. Commercial resource users will be required to assume all or a portion of capital and maintenance costs for roads that they use in the parks.

4.4.3 GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Parks Branch will continue to provide centrally-located, bear-proof garbage containers. It is the responsibility of park users, including cottage owners, boaters, campers, hikers and day users, to use these facilities. In turn, Parks Branch will increase enforcement procedures and patrols into remote areas to ensure compliance.

4.4.4 SEWER AND WATER

A large capacity sewage lagoon has been developed in Grindstone Provincial Park while an oxydation treatment facility operates on Hecla Island. Facilities not connected to this system employ pump-out holding tanks.

Cottage sewage facilities, be it holding tank or vault-type privy, require approval from the Public Health Inspector. Local septic tank services are then required to pump-out tanks for disposal in the sewage lagoon.

Wells provide the existing supply of drinking water in Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks. Wells in the Gull Harbour area in particular are operating at or near capacity. Investigations are currently being undertaken to determine the most feasible means of assuring high quantities or high quality water for domestic purposes.

4.5 PARK BOUNDARIES

The parks' boundaries are proposed to remain unchanged, except for one modification. The Pipestone Rocks are currently bisected by the north boundary of Hecla Provincial Park. The park boundary will be adjusted to include all of this significant feature within Hecla park.

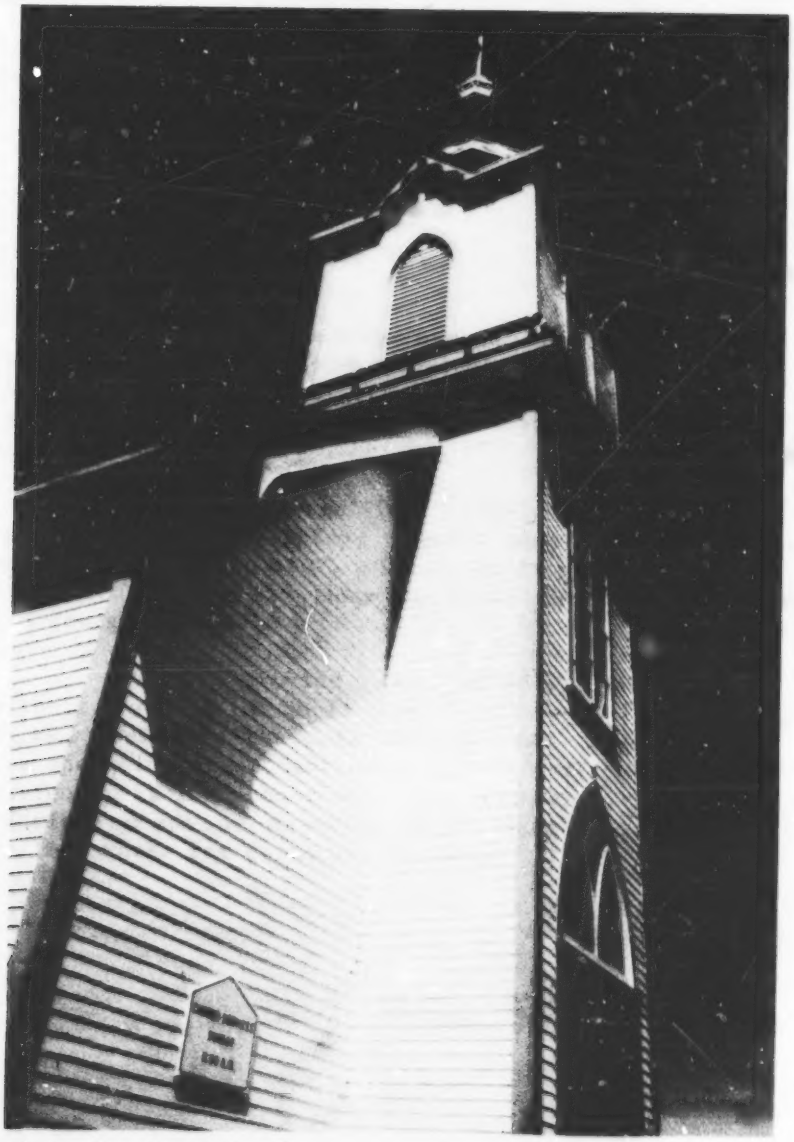


Photo 35. Hecla Church

5.0 Zoning

Photo 36.

5.0 ZONING

Zoning is a means of describing uses and activities that may take place in specific park areas. It is intended to ensure that a wide range of opportunities will be accommodated, that they will be situated in areas best suited to their environmental qualities, and that they will be arranged in such a way as to minimize conflicting activities. The zoning concept is designed to provide clarity and predictability for park visitors, government officials, development proponents and commercial operators.

To provide a structure for the protection, management, and development of the parks' resources, both land and water-based zoning categories are proposed. These zones recognize the special qualities and regulatory requirements of Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks.

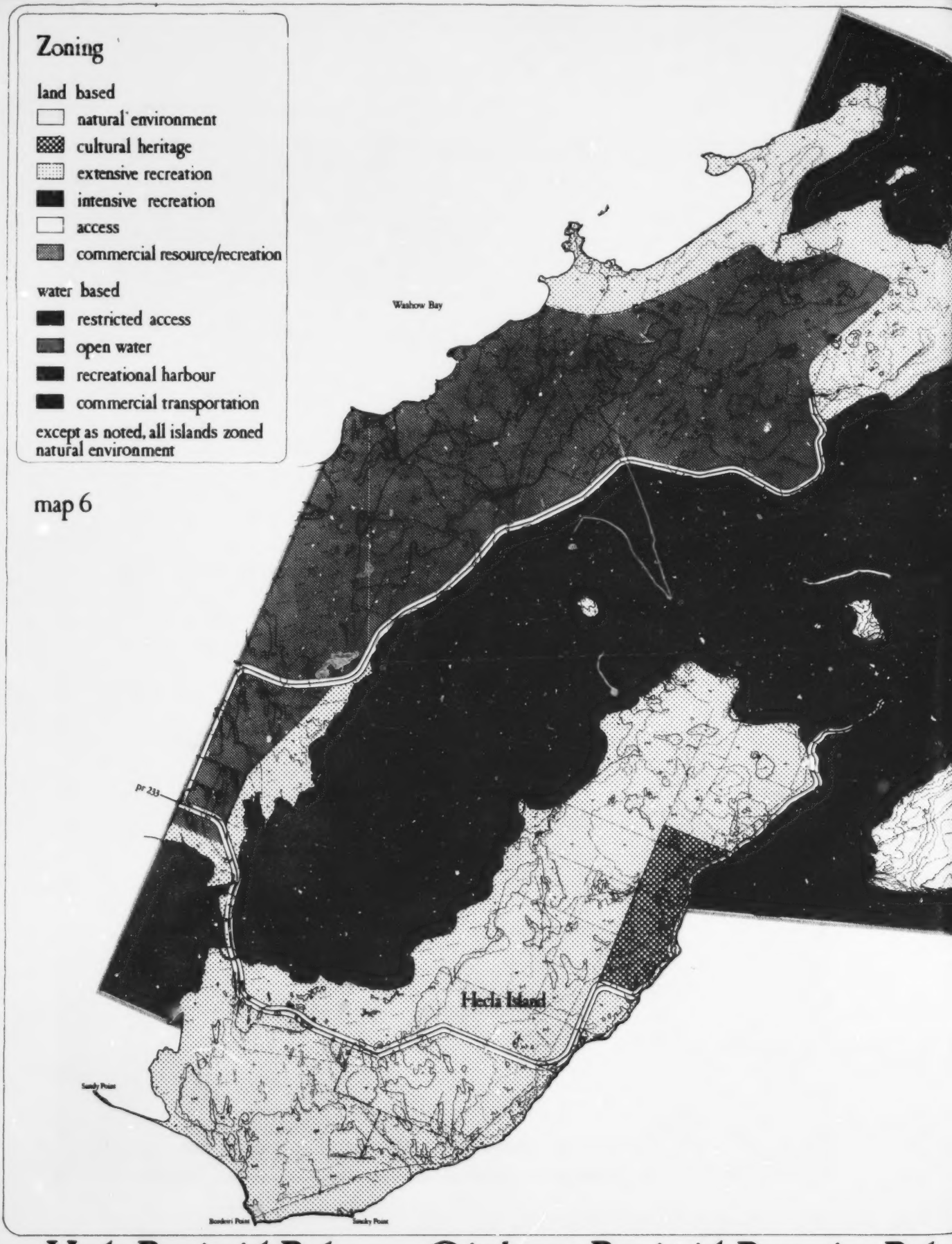
Six land-based zones are proposed for Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks. They are:

1) Natural Environment,
2) Cultural Heritage,
3) Extensive Recreation,
4) Intensive Recreation,
5) Access, and
6) Commercial Resource/Recreation.

Four proposed water-based zones are:

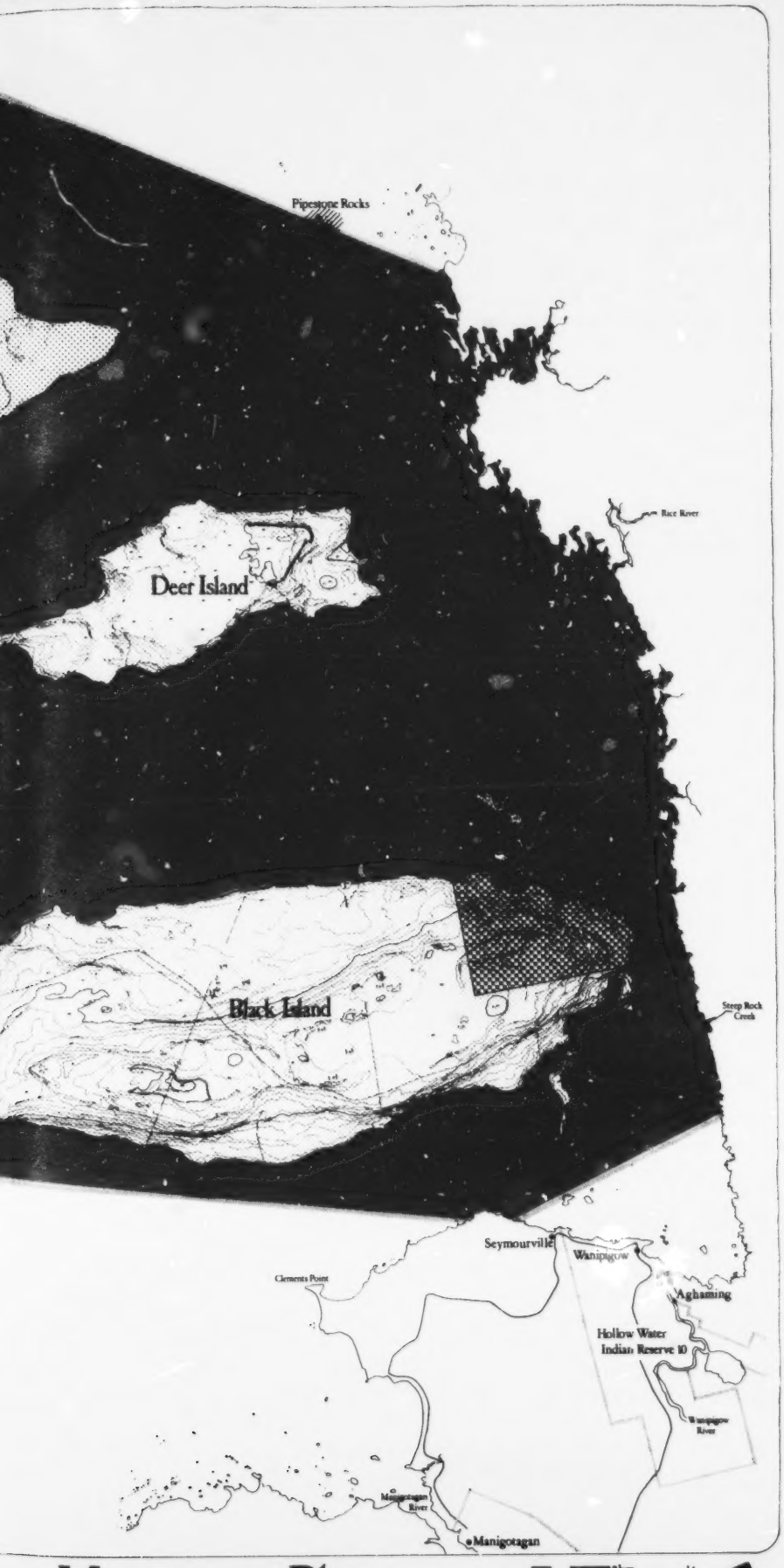
1) Restricted Access,
2) Open Water,
3) Recreational Harbour, and
4) Commercial Transportation

Areas classified in this matter are illustrated on Map 6. Uses or activities permitted in each zone are also described. Any uses or activities which are not identified as permitted, are generally deemed to be excluded from the zone.



Hecla Provincial Park

Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park



Management Plan

5.1 LAND-BASED ZONES

The six land-based zones are described below. They are to serve as the basis for future use of specified areas and for development or resource management applications.

5.1.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONES

Natural Environment Zones are intended to preserve outstanding examples of the parks' natural landscapes and to provide recreational opportunities in a remote or isolated setting. Most of Black, Punk, Little Punk, Goose and Deer Islands as well as numerous smaller islands have been placed in this category.

Resource management in Natural Environment Zones will generally involve a "hands-off" approach. Natural processes will be allowed to take their course unless it is apparent that the complete loss of rare or endangered plant and animal communities or species could occur without intervention. Scientific study will be encouraged within these zones.

Recreational experiences will be primarily water and beach oriented. Remote camping, hiking, viewing, photography and interpretation will be promoted. Limited facilities in support of these recreational activities are appropriate. Examples include fire rings and pit privies at remote campsites and hiking trails.

Built structures such as commercial outcamps or fishing camps are not permitted. The use of motorized vehicles such as snowmobiles is permitted on designated trails only.

Traditional uses such as hunting, trapping and berry-picking are permitted, however, forestry and mining are not. The existing silica sand quarry on Black Island is not consistent with the purpose of this zone and, therefore, is recognized as a non-conforming use. The site will be rehabilitated once the operation has exhausted sand deposits within the current lease area. New operations of this type will not be permitted.

5.1.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONES

Two Cultural Heritage Zones are identified in Hecla Provincial Park. Cultural Heritage Zones are established to preserve and interpret Icelandic settlement on Hecla Island and native occupancy on Black Island. Each zone has specific management requirements based on the distinctive cultural influences on these areas.

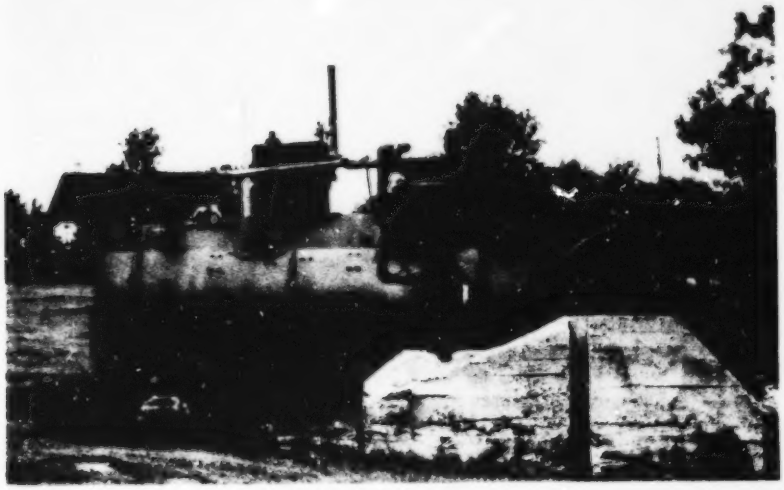


Photo 37. Steam Engine, Hecla Village

Hecla Island Cultural Heritage Zone

A remnant of the rural pastoral landscape that is representative of the Hecla Island Icelandic settlement will be preserved to give visitors an insight into life in New Iceland. Facilities and programs which promote learning and appreciation of the life and culture of the settlement on Hecla will be encouraged. Such activities as commercial fishing and fish sales, and traditional farming operations are appropriate in this regard. Support services and facilities including but not limited to food and grocery services and boardinghouse accommodations are also appropriate. Recreational facilities, such as campgrounds, that are considered non-compatible with the village, will not be permitted.

Developments consistent with the cultural heritage as expressed in site and structure restoration or, reconstruction are appropriate. Any refurbishing of existing structures or new construction must conform to prescribed conditions respecting form, colours, and materials used. Conditions and standards will be developed and reviewed with all parties-at-interest. The further subdivision of land will not be permitted.

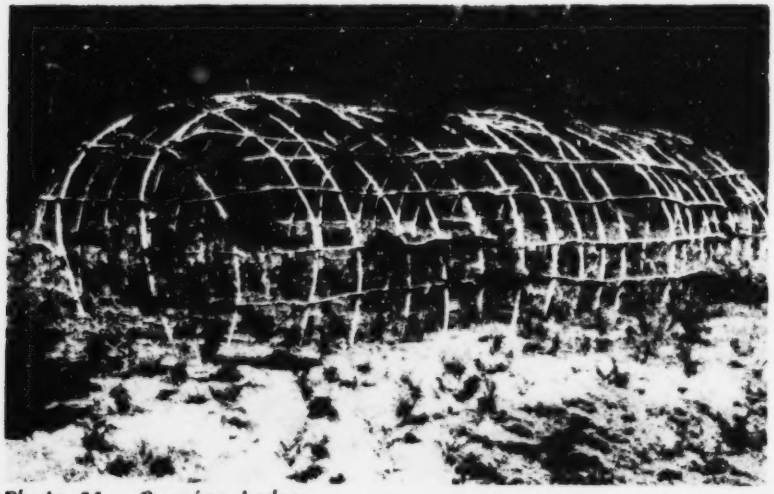


Photo 38. Dancing Lodge

Black Island Cultural Heritage Zone

Management of the Black Island Cultural Heritage Zone will emphasize archaeological research and landscape protection. Interpretive facilities and programs in keeping with the historic use of this area by native people are permitted uses. Specific recreational or other community events by native groups will be permitted provided that these are consistent with the primary purpose of the zone. Trails and structures to replicate historic activities in this area may be developed, however, permanent buildings or outcamps are not permitted.

Commercial resource activities such as forestry and mining, and the use of motorized vehicles outside of designated trails, also, are not permitted. Trapping and hunting are permitted activities.

5.1.3 EXTENSIVE RECREATION ZONES

The majority of Hecla Island and portions of Grindstone Provincial Park are zoned Extensive Recreation. All activities permitted in the Natural Environment Zone are appropriate in the Extensive Recreation Zones. The status of sport hunting as a permitted or non-permitted activity on Hecla Island requires further public review of alternatives before a decision is taken. Trapping is not permitted in the Hecla Extensive Recreation Zone.

Resource management in the Hecla Extensive Recreation Zone will emphasize active techniques to enhance wildlife habitats. Marsh management through water control projects, controlled burning and silviculture operations aimed at habitat improvements are examples of the types of management activities appropriate in this zone.

Developments such as man-made structures designed to increase wildlife sightings, extensive trail systems for year-round use and primitive campsites are permitted in this zone. Warm-up or overnight shelters may be developed in association with trail systems and approved facilities for commercial fishing operations are permitted.

The Grindstone Extensive Recreation Zones include lands in the southeast corner of the park and the northern end of Grindstone peninsula. Hunting and trapping are permitted activities in these Extensive Recreation Zones. Other activities as described for the Hecla zone are permitted.

The northern end of Grindstone encompasses lands with high capability for intensive types of recreational use and development such as cottaging and resorts. Demands for development in this area are not anticipated during the life of the plan hence they are being zoned Extensive Recreation. Future review of the plan could result in part or all this area being re-zoned into the Intensive Recreation category. In that event, facilities such as cottage subdivisions, resort properties, marinas and trail systems could be developed in this zone. Such a zoning change would be subject to public review. Commercial resource activities such as forestry and mining are not permitted in this area.

5.1.4 INTENSIVE RECREATION ZONES

Intensive Recreation Zones are established to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities, services and accommodations in a natural setting. A high level of service, comfort, and convenience is provided, creating a near-urban environment or recreational village atmosphere. The Grindstone Intensive Recreation Zone includes existing and proposed cottage subdivisions. The Gull Harbour area of Hecla Island is also zoned Intensive Recreation. This area contains the serviced campgrounds, resort hotel, various trails, vacation cabins, golf course and other services.

Hecla Intensive Recreation Zone

Additional facilities and services of the types noted above are appropriate in this zone. Resort development standards called for in earlier sections of the plan are intended to maintain and expand the high quality, fully modern types of facilities and services now available. The zone is judged to be capable of supporting approximately 550 to 600 accommodation units. Development proposals outlined in the plan will, if implemented, fully utilize the zone's capacity. Cottage subdivisions are not permitted.

Resource management within the zone will emphasize vegetation management for aesthetic, public safety and fire control purposes. Commercial resource harvesting and hunting are not permitted.

Grindstone Intensive Recreation Zone

The Grindstone Intensive Recreation Zone includes existing and potential cottage subdivisions. The development of future subdivisions within the zone would follow existing development standards and requirements respecting lot and building size. Other facilities and services permitted within the zone are marinas, trails, food and gasoline sales outlets and commercial campgrounds.

Resource management within the zone will be similar to that in the Hecla zone. It will emphasize vegetation management for aesthetic, public safety and fire control purposes. Commercial resource harvesting and hunting are not permitted.

5.1.5 ACCESS ZONES

All major thoroughfares in Hecla and Grindstone Parks are designated as Access Zones. Access Zones will reflect the management parameters of the zones through which they pass. Should new major roads be developed in either park, they would be zoned accordingly.

Hecla Access Zone

Wayside picnic facilities, water-access sites, scenic view points, trails and administrative and service facilities are permitted in this zone.

Road standards will vary by location. That portion of road from the causeway to the start of the Cultural Heritage Zone will be developed to Provincial Trunk Highway Standards. The current asphalt surface and narrower road widths will be maintained throughout the Cultural Heritage Zone. An intermediate standard will be employed along the remaining section of road from the Cultural Heritage Zone to the Intensive Recreation Zone.

Vegetation management will be ongoing to regenerate forest stands and enhance viewing opportunities. Hunting, trapping, mining and commercial forestry are excluded.

Grindstone Access Zone

Services and facilities described for the Hecla Access Zone are appropriate within the Grindstone Access Zone. Commercial facilities such as service stations are also permitted.

Vegetation management through selective forestry operations will be undertaken and fish stocking in borrow pits within the zone will continue. Hunting is not allowed, however, trapping is permitted within the Grindstone Access Zone.

5.1.6 COMMERCIAL RESOURCE/RECREATION ZONES

The Commercial Resource/Recreation Zone in Grindstone Provincial Park is intended to provide opportunities for both general recreation and commercial resource uses.

Recreational facilities would be limited primarily to trail systems for purposes of hiking, snowmobiling and hunting.

Commercial activities permitted in the zone are forestry, peat mining and agriculture. All commercial uses allowed in the zone are subject to permit terms and conditions and to all applicable acts and regulations.

Photo 39.

5.2 WATER-BASED ZONES

Zoning of the parks' waters is intended to complement the zoning of land areas. It conveys the importance of Lake Winnipeg as a rich natural environment, a significant recreational resource, and a source of livelihood. Recreational use of the parks' waters is considered to be low at present. The prospect of increased use, however, will bring particular management requirements. The four water-based zones are described below.

5.2.1 RESTRICTED ACCESS ZONE

This zone is intended to protect sensitive features and habitats. The Pipestone Rocks are designated as a Restricted Access Zone because they are nesting and staging sites of gulls, cormorants and pelicans. It is critical that nesting sites not be disturbed in the period from May to August. Therefore, boating restrictions will be placed on this area. Observation of the colonies would be permitted only at safe distances to ensure nesting birds are not disturbed.

Commercial exploration or developments are not permitted in this zone, to protect the birds' habitats in all seasons. Scientific study in this area will be governed by permit conditions as earlier described.

Should other such areas be identified, a similar zoning category would be applied.

5.2.2 OPEN WATER ZONE

The Open Water Zone comprises a significant portion of Hecla and Grindstone Parks. Promotion of safe boating and the enjoyment of a variety of features and experiences afforded by Lake Winnipeg will be a major objective in this zone (see Section 4.3.1, Boating Facilities and Programs).

Natural harbours such as Well's Harbour, the Rice River, areas along the eastern shore of Black Island and other areas of safe anchorage, lend themselves well for overnight excursions of large craft, to which the parks' open waters are best suited. Generally, operation of small motorized craft or unpowered craft such as canoes should be avoided in this zone. Such activities will be discouraged in the Open Water Zone and encouraged in the immediate area of Gull Harbour, Little Grindstone Point and other major access sites.

Agencies will be encouraged to participate in information and management programs. For example, the Department of Transport, Canada Customs, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canada's Coast Guard are federal agencies with diverse responsibilities on Lake Winnipeg for maintaining navigational aids and for conducting search and rescue operations. Such agencies' co-operation will be sought in the development and implementation of public information programs, boating regulations and management strategies.

Commercial fishing is an ongoing use within the zone and is an important aspect of the park program. Public information will be provided to reduce any potential conflicts between fishing and recreational boating. Additional steps would be taken to restrict recreational boating and/or to relocate, or better demarcate nets, should the need arise.

Mineral exploration activities on the ice have occurred infrequently. Applications for permits to explore for minerals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

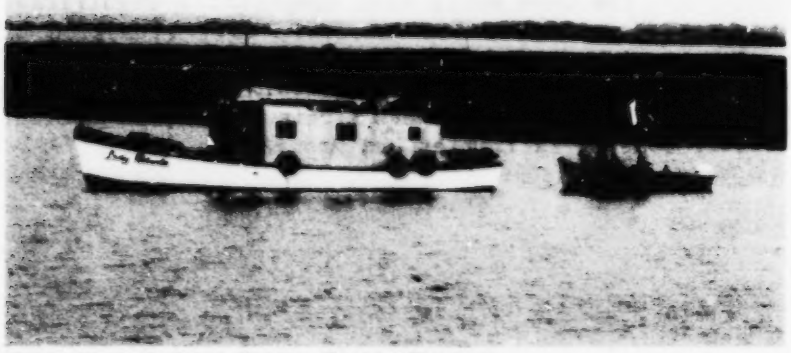


Photo 40. Fishing Boats, Grassy Narrows

5.2.3 RECREATIONAL HARBOUR ZONES

These zones are established in intensively developed harbours where there is a variety of uses and supporting facilities and services. Three such zones are identified for Gull Harbour, Hecla Village and Little Grindstone Point.

Motorized and non-motorized boating, aircraft landing and take-offs, sailboarding, swimming and waterskiing are among the activities permitted within Recreational Harbour Zones. For each zone there is a requirement to specify permitted activities, and to allocate sufficient space to them, to ensure public safety. Development plans for this purpose will be prepared for Recreational Harbour Zones.

5.2.4 COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION ZONE

The Commercial Transportation Zone recognizes the commonly used shipping lanes through Hecla Provincial Park. Management of use within this zone will be discussed further with federal authorities and operators to consider such matters as regulation of commercial traffic, better demarcation of shipping lanes and public information needs.

Commercial traffic within the zone will enjoy the right-of-way over other boats. Commercial traffic will be expected to operate in this zone unless safe shipping operations require otherwise (e.g. foul weather).

Photo 41. Log House Restoration, 1985

6.0 Implementation

Photo 42. Beacon at Gull Harbour

The Draft Management Plan has proposed a variety of management and development projects. These proposals, for the most part, achieve or surpass the objectives established earlier in the planning process. Those which may not be fully achieved as expressly identified are discussed below:

> To diversify and increase camping opportunities by developing a new 100 unit waterfront campground along the southeast shoreline on Hecla Island.

The group-use campground along the southeast shore will be redesigned to accommodate both group use and tent camping. As well, a 75 unit tent camping bay will be developed in the existing Gull Harbour Campground. Selective clearing within and along the shoreline of the existing campground and bays at Gull Harbour will create attractive views of Lake Winnipeg. Finally, the opportunity exists for the development of a commercial-operated, privately-developed campground in Grindstone Provincial Park.

> To expand cottaging opportunities on Grindstone consistent with resource capability and public demand up to a level of 1,000 lots (including the existing 350).

Priority will be on the allocation of presently undeveloped lots on Grindstone. In addition, some 300 new lots could be developed south of Little Grindstone Point should demand warrant.

> To develop boat-in camping facilities on Black and Deer Islands in pace with demand.

There are no immediate plans to develop primitive camping sites on Black and Deer Islands. Primitive camping will be encouraged on Hecla Island and Grindstone at Well's Harbour. Campsites may be developed on these islands in the future depending on demand and the availability of support services such as commercial boat-touring operations.

For most of the programs proposed, detailed planning is required. For example, programs for recreational facilities must be preceded by the collection of engineering data, the preparation of landscape designs and cost estimates. A similar process is required for interpretation programs.

The management of natural and cultural resources is an ongoing process. Agencies involved will carefully monitor the parks' resources and activities, and will assess the need for change in the management system. Changes will be implemented as required.

The proposed zoning plan requires periodic review as well. For example, it is expected that the north end of Grindstone Provincial Park classified as an Extensive Recreation Zone will remain as such for the duration of this plan. Physically, however, this area is ideal for intensive recreational developments and depending future recreational wants, needs, and trends, such development may be warranted.

The projects and programs recommended in the plan are of three basic types: recreational development, public information and interpretation, and resource management. The general priority for implementation of these various projects is shown in Figure 6.

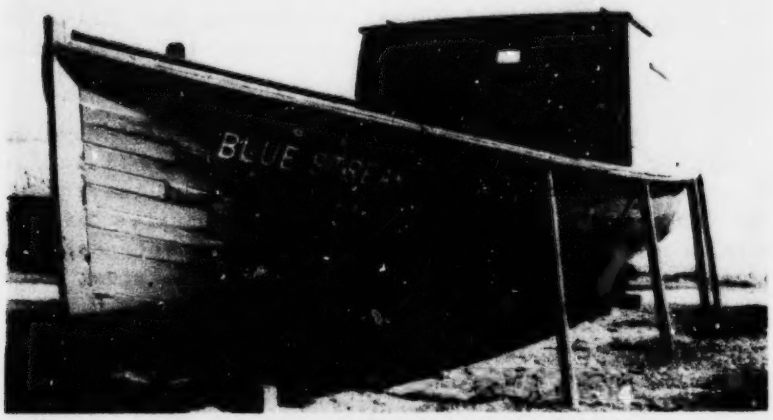


Photo 43. Whitefish Boat on Display, Hecla Village

Recreational Development

PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3
Gull Harbour Marina	Creative Children's Playground on Hecla Island	Snowmobile Trail
Transient Tent Sites in Group Use Area	Kjartanson Point Overnight Cross-country Ski Trail	Rental Cabins Expansion
Commercial Fixed-roof Prospectus for Accommodation on Hecla Island	75 Unit Tenting Bay in Gull Harbour Campground	Primitive Camping on Black Island
Bicycle Trail on Hecla Island	Fitness Trail	Primitive Camping at West Quarry
Prepare Development and Upgrading Conditions for the Hecla Cultural Heritage Zone		

Information and Interpretation

Visitor Services Centre	Tomasson Boardinghouse Bed and Breakfast	
Boat-Touring Service	Gull Harbour Self-guiding Trail	
Native Co-op Association	Outfitting Service	
Icelandic Co-op Association	Marsh Interpretive Development Project	

Resource Management

Special Features Inventory		
Five Year Forestry Plan for Grindstone		
Cultural Archaeological Research - Black Island		
Marsh Development Project		
Continuous Moose Population Monitoring and Habitat Programs		

Figure 6

Implementation Priorities

Photo 44. Collingwood Boats, c. 1920

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover and pages 30, 40, 41, 56 and 104 courtesy of The Provincial Archives of Manitoba; page 70 courtesy of Travel Manitoba.

Your comments on the Draft Plan for Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks will assist in developing the final Management Plan. Please send your written comments to the following address and include your name and address if you wish to be on our mailing list.

Hecla Management Plan
Manitoba Parks Branch
Department of Natural Resources
280 Smith Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1K2

For additional information, you may call the Parks Branch at 945-4380.